



## **Prayer for Peace event leaves Maze for Belfast Cathedral**

Brother David Jardine of Divine Healing Ministries has announced that the “Day of Prayer for our land” event previously planned for the RUAS site at the Maze that the Day of Prayer will have a change of venue. The date is unchanged - September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Brother David said, “The format of the day will still be the same. We begin at 9am and finish at 6pm. Prayer will be in silence. It is an opportunity for all of us as individuals to have an encounter with God.

He continued, “The reason we have switched venues is that we came to realise, through conversations with victims’ groups and those who have suffered, how hurtful and upsetting it would be for them if we were to go to Balmoral Park, Maze Long Kesh. These people have suffered enough. We do not want to add to that suffering. So out of compassion for them we decided to move to St Anne’s Cathedral.”

Brother David said the Cathedral will be transformed into a quiet, private prayer space. “If your peace has been disturbed for whatever reason, maybe from experiences in the past, why not come and spend some time with God in an atmosphere of godly calmness?

“Quietly between you and Him you can lay down any of the things that disturb: forgive those who have hurt you: say sorry where you may have hurt others; and make a commitment to help build a better future for our land.

“The focal point will be a large plain wooden cross right at the front of the Cathedral. All the prayer will be in silence. This is a time for people to come as individuals before God, and through that encounter, however long or short, to find His peace.”

## **Pope names Dublin born Dallas bishop head of new office for laity and family life**

Pope Francis has named Bishop Kevin J Farrell of Dallas to head the Vatican’s new office for laity, family and life.

The Dublin-born bishop will celebrate his 69th birthday on September 2, the day after the new Vatican office officially begins its work.

The Dallas Bishop Farrell is the brother of Bishop Brian Farrell, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Both brothers were ordained to the priesthood for the Legionaries of Christ, but the Dallas bishop was later incardinated in the Archdiocese of

Washington and served as an auxiliary bishop there 2002-2007.

When the Dallas bishop arrives in Rome, it will be the first time the two brothers have ever ministered in the same city, the Vatican's Bishop Farrell told Catholic News Service today. The appointment "was a huge surprise to me and a huge surprise, of course, to him. But he has such a long experience of pastoral work and administration as well," he added.

Pope Francis, in a brief apostolic letter formally establishing the new "Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life," said the office should respond "to the situations of our age and adapt to the needs of the universal church."

The church, as an "attentive mother," must show special care and concern for the lay faithful, for families and for the sacredness of human life, he wrote in the letter, which was released yesterday.

"We want to offer them support and help so that they would be active witnesses of the Gospel in our age and an expression of the goodness of the Redeemer."

Pope Francis created the new office by combining the pontifical councils for the laity and for the family.

Statutes for the new office, published in June, said it was being established “for the promotion of the life and apostolate of the lay faithful, for the pastoral care of the family and its mission according to God’s plan and for the protection and support of human life.”

Its new head, Bishop Farrell, has been bishop of Dallas since 2007. Before that, he was an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Washington. He currently serves as treasurer of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Pontifical Council for the Family had been headed by Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, 71, since 2012.

## **Cork chaplain helps to develop bereavement care standards**

The Health Service Executive’s *National Standards for Bereavement Care following Pregnancy Loss and Perinatal Death* have been launched by the Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris TD. The new standards were developed

by a group of 21 professionals and researchers involved in perinatal bereavement care, including Cork Healthcare Chaplain Dr Daniel Nuzum. The standards focus on four areas: bereavement care; the hospital; the baby and parents; and the staff.

Dr Keelin O'Donoghue, Consultant Obstetrician and Senior Lecturer, Cork University Maternity Hospital has been appointed to lead the implementation of the new standards nationally. Dr O'Donoghue explained: "The publication of these standards marks another significant step forward for the health services and is a direct expression of our commitment to compassionate care for patients. All Maternity Hospitals/Units will now establish or develop further Bereavement Specialist Teams to assist and support parents, families and professionals dealing with pregnancy loss.

"These teams will comprise staff members who have undertaken specialist and extensive education in bereavement care and will include a dedicated clinical midwife specialist in bereavement care for each maternity unit. They will be supported in their work by staff from other disciplines including obstetricians, paediatricians,



***The Expert Group with the Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris TD, and the Director General of the HSE, Mr Tony O'Brien.***

neonatologists, chaplains, social workers and palliative care teams. The new standards also acknowledge the impact of pregnancy loss and perinatal death on staff and the importance of having formal structures in place to support staff.”

Daniel Nuzum, who was also present at the launch, commented: “The introduction of national bereavement standards means that all bereaved parents can expect to receive the same high level of care in all our maternity units and that sensitive, compassionate and professional care

will be available to all who have to come to terms with the loss of a pregnancy or the death of a baby before or shortly after birth.

“The standards also clearly highlight the importance of supportive and clinical care for parents and families who receive a diagnosis that their baby has a life-limiting condition which for some may be fatal. As a chaplain I am pleased that the standards recognise the physical, spiritual, emotional and social impact of perinatal bereavement and the importance of good teamwork in the care we provide to bereaved families.”

The standards can be read in full on the [Health Service Executive](#) website.

## **Cathedral and choral: Welsh hymns given modern make-over**

Wales is a country known for its love of music, from Welsh Male Voice Choirs to the likes of Shirley Bassey and Tom Jones; and it has also produced more than its fair share of well-known hymns. Now a vicar from the former coal-mining valley town of Rhondda in the South Wales is trying to preserve the treasure of traditional





***The Revd Paul Wigmore hopes his new hymnbook, Songs Of Praise The Valleys Sing, will preserve the treasure of traditional Welsh hymns and the culture of hymn singing in the country.***

Welsh hymns and the culture of hymn singing by giving their words a modern twist.

The Revd Paul Wigmore says that the “stirring” hymns he learned in his childhood are now rarely sung because of their old-fashioned words and the decline of the non-conformist chapels in Wales.

Father Wigmore is vicar of Ynyshir, in the Rhondda Valley, which was once internationally famous for its hymn singing. The area gave its

name to one of the most popular Welsh hymn tunes, *Cwm Rhondda*, which was traditionally used as the setting for the William Williams' hymn, *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*.

A book containing 50 of the once very well-known Welsh hymns, re-written in simpler language by Father Bigmore, will be launched by the Archbishop of Wales next month. The book, *Songs Of Praise The Valleys Sing*, includes the likes of *Blaenwern* – the traditional setting of *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*; *Berwyn* – the setting for *Light of the World, Forever, Ever Shining*; the rugby fans' favourite *Rachie* – the setting for *I Bob Un Sydd Ffyddlon (To Everyone Who is Faithful)*; and *Ar Hyd Y Nos* – which has been used for a range of hymns, including *All Through The Night, For The Beauty Of creation, and God, That Madest Earth And Heaven*.

“Singing is part of our Welsh tradition and culture, particularly in the Rhondda,” Father Bigmore said. “We have a rich heritage of tunes that needs to be nurtured. Welsh hymns raise the spirits, gives impetus of hope and joy – and we saw that very recently at the Euro2016 [football] games when the terraces of France resounded with *Cwm Rhondda* and *Calon Lân* as thousands

of Welsh fans turned to our best known hymns to urge the team on – with considerable success too!

“While the fans know the tunes, though, not many of them know all the words or are even aware of our other great hymns. This is partly because they are in Welsh but also because the language is not understood – words like ‘co-eternal’, ‘consubstantial’, ‘ineffably sublime’ are a bit of a mouthful to today’s youngsters – they don’t know what they mean.

“My aim is to give these tunes a new lease of life by giving them words that people will understand and remember. I also want to rekindle our culture of hymn singing. We live in a world where there is great need. Loneliness, rejection, isolation and poverty affect many people within our communities. I hope that by bringing people together of all ages to sing these hymns – in one voice – the above concerns may alleviate in some way for the good of all.”

Father Bigmore says he was inspired to prepare the book after a conversation he had with the former Archbishop of Canterbury and of Wales, Rowan Williams. “He was saying how sad it was

that all those lovely hymn tunes and melodies we were brought up with were dying out fast. I decided there and then to do something about it.”

Lord Williams, a past president of the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland, wrote the foreword for the book, describing it as “a welcome resource.”

He wrote: “It is a tragedy when the heritage of theology and devotion expressed in song fades away. Fr Paul – another visionary where choral music is concerned – has observed with concern the decline in the great musical tradition of Welsh Christianity and has worked tirelessly and imaginatively for many years to counter that decline and to promote the best of this tradition, creating new opportunities for young people to learn and enjoy.”

The Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, will launch and dedicate the new hymn book at the Church of St John the Baptist in Cardiff on 17 September. He will be joined by BBC Wales presenter Roy Noble, the Llandaff Cathedral Girls’ Choir; and a children’s choir from the Rhondda, *Cor y Cwm*.

“Music and hymnody can help us to express our deepest feelings and desires as few other things can,” Dr Morgan said. “Through both, we can speak to God and God can touch our hearts. This is precisely what this book of new hymns to familiar tunes does and Paul Bigmore has put us all in his debt.”

## News briefs

**+++ Bishop Burrows chairs Anglican & Old Catholic Council** - The Rt Revd Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, recently co-chaired the Anglican–Old Catholic International Co-ordinating Council (AOCICC) in Ghent, Belgium. The meeting was hosted by the Anglican Communion. Participants reflected on the nature and meaning of the communion between the Anglican and Old Catholic Churches, updated each other about developments within each of their communions, briefed each other about developments in ecumenical relationships, and considered how to develop concrete proposals for the common mission of the Anglican and Old Catholic Churches on the European continent. More information is available in the [communiqué](#) for

the Council meeting. The Council will meet again in Germany in July 2017 when it will be hosted by the (Old Catholic) Union of Utrecht.

**+++ Killyleagh Institution** - The Revd Colin Darling will be instituted as incumbent of the Parish of Killyleagh in the Diocese of Down on Monday 22 August at 7.45 pm. The preacher will be Canon Jono Pierce.

**+++ Down & Dromore ordinations** - This year's Service of Ordination of Presbyters/Priests, will take place in Down Cathedral on Sunday 28 August at 3.30 pm. The preacher will be Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, the former Bishop of Rochester. To be ordained by Bishop Harold Miller:

- Revd Bill Donoghue for the curacy of Willowfield
- Revd Raymond Kettyle for the curacy of Cregagh
- Revd Scott McDonald to serve as Diocesan Curate with the Lecale Area Mission Partnership (LAMP) Ministry Team
- Revd Peter Munce for the curacy of Moira

- Revd Robert Smyth to serve as Diocesan Curate with special responsibility for the Parish of Annalong
- Revd Colin Taylor to serve as Diocesan Curate with special responsibility for the Parish of Dromara and Garvagh

**+++ Talking Jesus conference, Scotland** - A conference in Edinburgh in October will explore how modern-day attitudes to Jesus and the church might shape evangelism efforts in the twenty-first century. 'Talking Jesus' will introduce the findings of new research, commissioned by the Church of England and Evangelical Alliance, into what people outside the church think about Jesus and His followers. The one-day conference will look at what this research means for people and organisations who wish to share the Christian faith. The main speaker, Dr Rachel Jordan, is the National Mission and Evangelism Adviser for the Church of England. The event takes place on October 29 at Edinburgh University, and costs £10 including lunch. To register visit [www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events/talking-jesus](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events/talking-jesus) or call Sara Deeks on 0131 225 5722.

### **+++ Ecumenical focus on prayer for creation -**

Anglican, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians are being asked to join in the World Day of Prayer for Creation on 1 September and to use the following month, leading up to the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October, as a Season of Creation. The late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios introduced the Season of Creation into the Orthodox Churches in 1989. Last year Pope Francis designated the 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation; and this year he has called on Catholics to join “together with all Christians” in the Season of Creation. The Pope’s request echoes a call from the Anglican Consultative Council in 2009 for provinces to “celebrate a liturgical ‘Season of Creation’ as an integral part of the church’s yearly pattern of worship and teaching” and again in 2012, when it asked provinces to “consider the inclusion of a season of Creation in the liturgical calendar.” Now, the Anglican Communion Environmental Network (ACEN) has partnered with the Global Catholic Climate Movement and other agencies to promote the day of prayer and gather resources “to assist all faithful people to take part in the Season.” The timing of the Season of Creation means that it falls during Harvest-tide in the



northern hemisphere and in the Spring season of rebirth in the southern hemisphere. ACEN, the Global Catholic Climate Movement, and their partners have created a website with resources to help churches take part in the World Day of Prayer for Creation and the Season of Creation. This can be found at [seasonofcreation.org](http://seasonofcreation.org).

**+++ Kenyan churches join Colour in Faith project** - A number of churches, mosques and other religious temples in Kenya are being painted yellow as part of an initiative to bring people of different faiths together. The [Colour in Faith](#) project is “an art orchestration that creates a space for the expression of faith in humanity and universal values.” Nabila Alibhai, the project’s cultural curator, has been involved in innovation in peace-building and civic engagement, public health and safety for a several years; and has worked on projects in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tanzania, the US and Switzerland. “The reason we chose yellow is because yellow is the colour of light, light dispels darkness,” she told ACNS. “It is a also a neutral colour that can tie all faiths together in a movement that expresses love and common humanity as the most important elements of all faiths.”

The *Colour in Faith* project has previously worked in Afghanistan, where its focus was on the deployment of pink balloons. It has chosen Kenya for this new project because of the “growing dominance of fundamentalist voices and acts of terror justified on religious grounds” which lies in contrast to the country’s “long established culture of religious acceptance, tolerance, accommodation and exchange.”

The project says that they are painting houses of worship yellow to “represent a physical manifestation of love as the most important value in any religion. The colouring of the buildings would highlight the idea that there is more that unites us than divides us as a people, African and otherwise.”

One of the first churches to be painted was Holy Trinity Church in Kibera, part of the Anglican Church of Kenya. Members of its congregation led the painting at the nearby Jeddah Mosque; while members of the Mosque took responsibility for painting the church in an act that brought the two communities together.

**+++ Southern African synod to consider blessing same-sex civil unions** - The Anglican Church in Southern Africa is to consider blessing same-sex civil unions when its

provincial synod meets next month. But the motion, proposed by the Diocese of Saldanha Bay, would not permit clergy to solemnise same-sex marriages. The motion says that clergy should be “especially prepared for a ministry of pastoral care for those identifying as LGBTI” but that “any cleric unwilling to engage in such envisioned pastoral care shall not be obliged to do so” The motion . . . proposes that any bishop of the church who wishes to do so may make provision for her or his clergy to provide pastoral care to those who identify as LGBTI,” the Archbishop of Cape Town and Primate of Southern Africa, Dr Thabo Makgoba, said. “This proposal affirms the assurance already given by our bishops that church members who identify as LGBTI are loved by God and share in full membership of our Church as baptised members of the Body of Christ. “More controversially, the motion also proposes that clergy who identify as LGBTI and are in legal same-sex civil unions should be licensed to minister in our parishes. It also suggests that ‘prayers of blessing’ should be able to be offered for those in same-sex civil unions. However, it specifically rules out the possibility of marriage under church law.

## News links to reports on faith, politics and education

### Christian Today

Reports that the C of E has published a prayer for those waiting for A-Level exam grades (see above). Ahead of Thursday's results day the Church released a prayer of support "through the anxious moments of waiting". Written by a gap-year student shortly after receiving her own results, the prayers ask God to "keep reminding me of the bigger picture over the next few weeks".

### **Asian Express**

A profile of Rogers Govender, Dean of Manchester, the country's first BME Dean, reflecting on ten years in the post. South African born, Dean Rogers says, "Manchester is a very diverse city but within that diversity there is still a fair amount of work to be done," he said. At times, we must learn to rise above our race, culture and religion and recognise our common humanity. We need to celebrate that."

<https://www.asianexpress.co.uk/2016/08/the-only-way-forward-is-together/>

### **Children and Young People Now**

Profiles the newly appointed National Youth Evangelism officer, Jimmy Dale, who takes on the role in October. He will hold the national remit to develop and pilot ways of getting young people already with the church to "reach their peers with the gospel". Speaking of his appointment, Dale said, "It's brilliant to see young people as they evangelise to their friends and support them in that, and

helping churches reach young people with the good news of Jesus.

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1158632/church-of-england-to-launch-youth-evangelism-push>

### **BBC/Mail/ITV**

Reports of the funeral of Claire Hart and her daughter Charlotte who were murdered outside a leisure centre in Spalding, Lincolnshire last month, by Mrs Hart's estranged husband, Mark. The *Mail* quotes the Revd Rosamund Seal, vicar of All Saints church.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-37093182>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3742959/All-weep-Hundreds-turn-mourn-mother-daughter-shot-dead-father-sports-centre-car-park.html>

<http://www.itv.com/news/calendar/2016-08-16/spalding-shooting-victims-family-we-love-you-mum-we-love-you-charlotte/>

### **ITV**

Video report that the vicar of a South Devon church that opened its doors to remember a teenager who died after taking a psycho-active drug, says young people need to be more aware of the dangers. Nathan Wood is believed to have drowned in the River Dart 11 days ago, after leaving a group of friends. St John's church in Bridgetown, Totnes held a memorial afternoon to celebrate his life. The vicar the Revd Julian Ould says it's important youngsters have guidance.

<http://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2016-08-16/memorial-afternoon-held-for-river-death-teenager/>

### **Guard**

Reports that a reredos hidden behind panelling in All Saints church, Windsor discovered by chance is thought to be the work of Thomas Hardy. The author of *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and *Far from the Madding Crowd* trained as an architect and worked as a draughtsman in the 1860s, working on designs for a number of churches. All Saints is now seeking to raise £9,000 to restore the altarpiece.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/aug/16/thomas-hardy-altarpiece-discovered-in-windsor-church>

## **BBC**

Reports that a stained glass window taken from a Tudor church was "stolen to order". A panel with the image of the prophet Ezekial was removed from the 16th Century chapel in the Leicestershire village of Withcote. It is attributed to Galeon Hone, glazier to King Henry VIII, and was likely commissioned in the 1530s when the chapel was built. The Churches Conservation Trust said it was a theft of public art. Peter Aiers, regional director of the trust is quoted.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-37090370>

## **Blogs**

### **Church of England Communications**

Perseverance, character and hope:

<http://cofecoms.tumblr.com/post/149024871257/perseverance-character-and-hope>

Sometimes it's not until you really need to use something that you realise you no longer have it:

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/149023915397/sometimes-its-not-until-you-really-need-to-use>

**Quodcumque:** Holiness and management

<https://educationpriest.wordpress.com/2016/08/16/holiness-and-management/>

**The Busy Priest:** Mission or managerialism?

<https://thebusypriest.wordpress.com/2016/08/15/mission-or-managerialism/>

**Huffingtonpost:** Life with a feeding tube is not 'worse than death'

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/carrie-beckwithfellows/feeding-tube-artificial-nutrition\\_b\\_11493350.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/carrie-beckwithfellows/feeding-tube-artificial-nutrition_b_11493350.html)

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