



## St Laurence O'Toole major focus of Dublin and Glendalough's 800 years

The Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough mark 800 years as United Dioceses in 2016. This historic centenary will be marked and celebrated by a number of events during 2016 and 2017 beginning in October when it will be the theme of the annual Diocesan Service for National and Junior Schools.

A number of key events are taking shape currently. The Octave of Laurence O'Toole, the Patron Saint of Dublin, will provide a focal point in October beginning with an Ecumenical Festival Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral on the eve of the Feast of St Laurence O'Toole, Sunday November 13. All members of the dioceses will be invited to attend along with ecumenical and inter faith guests.

All weekday cathedral services during that week will reflect Laurencetide and Dublin and Glendalough 800 themes. The week will conclude with a Diocesan Come and Sing Festival Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday November 20 to which singers from every parish will be invited to sing with the cathedral choir.

The Octave of St Laurance O'Toole will also provide the backdrop for a Week of Exploration of 800 years. This will include a series of lectures on Dublin and Glendalough 800 organised and hosted by the Christ Church Library and Archives Committee.

On the Feast of St Laurence O'Toole, November 14, schools in the Dublin 8 area will be invited to visit Christ Church Cathedral for a small

exhibition on the Patron Saint of Dublin and a tour of the cathedral.

The week will also see the launch of 'A History Trail of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough'. This will be a downloadable image based trail of objects and places of historical significance, nominated by the people in the Dioceses, that will traverse and highlight the urban and rural areas of Dublin and Glendalough. It will consist of a series of numbered images of the objects and places of interest and an illustrated map to show where they are to be found. The graphic design, layout and illustration will be completed by the award winning illustrator Mark Wickham. It will be made available to download to the members of the Dioceses on the Diocesan website. For information on how to nominate please [CLICK HERE](#)

As part of the 800th anniversary celebrations Dublin and Glendalough's links with other dioceses will be highlighted.

The Anglican dioceses of Spain and of Portugal view the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough as their mother diocese. The history of this is well known to all. It relates to Archbishop Plunket and

Archbishop Gregg. Incidentally the current Archbishop of Dublin was the chief consecrator of the Bishop of Portugal and has attended and spoken at the General Synod of the Church of Spain. The Spanish and Portuguese bishops will attend both the Diocesan Synods and the National Schools Service.

Further events are planned for 2017 and will include a Diocesan National School Choral Competition to be held in March 2017. It is envisaged that preliminary rounds will take place in February 2017. Details and application forms will be sent to schools in time for the start of the 2017/18 school year. In the meantime, if you don't have a school choir maybe think about setting one up, and if you already have a school choir, get practising.

## **Terror victims welcome prayer vigil move from Maze to Belfast Cathedral**

Terror victims have welcomed a change of venue for a national reconciliation event originally planned for the Maze prison – in light of the “angst and hurt” the proposal had caused them., the News Letter reports.



***Kenny Donaldson said the organisers had shown humility in moving the prayer vigil from the former Maze prison site***

Kenny Donaldson of Innocent Victims United (IVU) said a delegation of victims had met recently with the visionary for the event, Rev David Jardine of Divine Healing Ministries, where they outlined how “hurtful” the choice of venue was, due to its strong associations with IRA hunger strikes.

In July Rev Jardine unveiled the planned event for the Maze Prison site for September 17. He had issued an open invitation to people to come to “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”. Initially he had strongly defended the venue from criticism, saying that no other had appeared so suitable to everyone. But on Wednesday he confirmed that he was changing the location in light of victims’ concerns.

Mr Donaldson said: “We welcome the confirmation that the prayer vigil planned for the Maze/Long Kesh/Balmoral Park site is to be moved to St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast. This follows a number of discussions between the event organisers and representatives from Innocent Victims United in recent weeks. “The church has shown humility in reaching this decision, a great deal of angst and hurt was caused to victims through the initial proposal and greater still would be the impact were the event to have gone ahead as planned. “In our frank discussions with Bro Jardine and colleagues we resolved that we are wanting the same thing for victims – to assist victims to find an inner peace, to get to a point of living as opposed to in many cases, merely existing. The power of prayer can be an enabler in this journey.” More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/terror-victims-welcome-prayer-vigil-move-from-maze-to-st-anne-s-1-7534200>

## **Moderator hosts Worldwide Missionary Convention tonight**

Presbyterian Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar, will chair a special session of the Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention when it officially opens this evening August 20 in Assembly Buildings, Belfast.

Celebrating 80 years of promoting and supporting world mission, having met each year since its foundation in 1937, the Convention aims to inform and instruct people who already have a genuine interest in world mission. It also seeks to challenge those with little or no involvement to become fully committed to mission at home and overseas in terms of praying, giving and going.

Dr. Sellar, who was ordained in Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church, were the majority of the Convention's meetings traditionally take place said, "It is my privilege in this special anniversary year to have been invited to chair the opening event.

"As Christians, we are never permitted to be isolationists. We are called to be a community of

global concern and there are few organisations more in tune with this than the Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention, which for eight decades has promoted mission with passion and encouraged many to respond to God's call.

“This evening will be no ordinary night. As well as inspirational praise, I am looking forward to meeting our three outstanding speakers. George Verwer, founder of Operational Mobilisation, is in his late 70's and still has a fire in his belly to evangelise, discipleship train and church plant. Former Congo missionary from Belfast, Bob McAllister, was wounded in the 1964 Simba Rebellion, which saw 13 fellow missionaries killed and Conrad Mbewe, the pastor of Kabwata Baptist Church in Lusaka, Zambia who has been described as the 'Spurgeon of Africa'.”

Before the Opening Night starts at 7.30pm, 50 mission organisations will exhibit in Assembly Buildings from 6pm. The Missionary Convention continues throughout the next week meeting in various locations, but principally in Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church, Bangor.

“Many years ago, as someone who feared that God would send me to the place I least wanted



to go, I discovered that instead God loves to change us, so that we are happy to do what he wants us to do, a lesson I have never forgotten. I warmly commend this year's Worldwide Missionary Convention in expectation of what God is going to do.”

For more information and details of all events at this year's Convention visit [www.worldwidemission.org](http://www.worldwidemission.org). You can also follow proceedings on Twitter @bangorworldwide. The Convention closes on 27th August.

## **368 C of I parishes register with Charity Commissioners**

All 368 vestries in Northern Ireland are now successfully registered with the Charity Commission, following the final set of workshops in July (for the Diocese of Clogher).

The registration workshops began in September 2014 and were piloted in the dioceses of Down and Dromore and Connor.

Their parishes will be the first to take on the next step, of producing annual reports.



The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, thanked the select vestries for their hard work in bringing the process to this point and commented: “The commitment of members of the select vestries as they engaged with this registration process has been remarkable, and the Church of Ireland is truly indebted to all those who undertook the task of gathering and submitting the necessary information.”

The achievement is very much a team effort and the Church is grateful for vestry members who came and took part so willingly in the workshops, and also the hard work of diocesan secretaries and administrative staff in co-ordinating the

process. Other Church of Ireland bodies will be contacted as the charity regulatory authorities proceed with their schedules.

For parishes undertaking annual reporting, guidance is available at [www.charitycommissionni.org.uk](http://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk) and Mrs Nicola Brown can be contacted for assistance on [parishsupportofficer@rcbdub.org](mailto:parishsupportofficer@rcbdub.org).

Queries about other aspects of charitable status can be directed to Ms Joanne Richards on +353 1 4125 660 or [charityreg@rcbdub.org](mailto:charityreg@rcbdub.org)

## **86-year-old nun who completes triathlons is star of Nike advert**

An 86-year-old who regularly competes in triathlons and Iron Man challenges has become the star of a Nike advert.

The [advert](#) features Sister Madonna Buder jogging, cycling and competing in an Iron Man challenge, where she shouts “the first 45 didn’t kill me!”

The advert, which has been aired during the Olympics, has become a viral sensation.

Sister Buder was born in St Louis, Missouri, and became a religious when she was aged 23.

She entered a convent called the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in St Louis before serving with the Sisters for Christian Community.

In 1970, she left the congregation to help to establish and join the non-canonical Sisters for Christian Community, an ecumenical group.

She was 48 when she first started to train and completed her first triathlon at the age of 52 and first Ironman event aged 55 and has continued ever since.

She has completed over 325 triathlons including 45 Ironman races, which involve a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile cycle ride and a marathon.

During the 2005 Hawaii Ironman, at the age of 75, the “Iron Nun”, as she is called, became the oldest woman ever to complete the race.

At the 2006 Hawaii Ironman, at the age of 76, she again became the oldest woman ever to complete the race, finishing with a time of 16:59:03.

## **Church-backed play about refugees shortlisted for two awards**

A play at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival highlighting the plight of a refugee in the Calais 'Jungle' is in the running for two national awards in the UK.

'Still Here' by Rachel Partington, Artistic Director of Theatre for Justice and a student at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, has been shortlisted by National Student Drama Festival for its Edinburgh Award 2016 and also longlisted by Amnesty International for its Freedom of Expression Award 2016.

The play is sponsored by the Church of England – the first time the Church has ever sponsored a production at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival – and is being performed in the grounds of St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh.



‘Still Here’ is new verbatim play based on the experiences of an Eritrean refugee from interviews conducted in the Calais Jungle in December 2015,

The play documents the journey of a man as he fled persecution for his faith, and the journey of the British girl who interviewed him.

The production draws on the talent of both cast and creatives from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Speaking about the play Rachel Partington said, “After my visit to Calais I was determined that this man’s story must be heard and that these people must not be forgotten.”

“Our vision for the show is to take to places where it could have real influence and we believe that Edinburgh is one of them. We hope that the Fringe will open doors to take the piece beyond, where it has the potential to move the hearts of those in power to further action.”

Rev Arun Arora, Director of Communications for the Church of England said, “We are delighted for Rachel, the cast and the crew for their achievement of being in the running for two national awards.”

“It is a privilege to sponsor and support a play that deals so powerfully and skilfully with one man’s journey of faith and flight. We share with Rachel a responsibility to speak up for the poor and the marginalised – for people of all faiths and none – and this play is a powerful and creative away of doing just that.”

The results of both awards will be announced at the end of the Fringe Festival.

More information about the play can be found at: <http://www.theatreforjustice.com/> The play is being performed until August 24 at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at ZOO @ St Mary’s South Lawn.

## News briefs

**+++ Heritage Week organ recital and bikes in Limerick** - A Heritage Week project, taking place across the churches and cathedrals of Limerick include cycle tours/church trails start this Wednesday 24th August at 2pm at St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick City. The project is being launched with a special organ recital at 1.15pm on Wednesday 24th August in St Mary's Cathedral.

**+++ New Veritas book** - On Thurs 25th August Fr Kevin Scallon is launching his new book 'Is Anyone Sick Among you'

**+++ Global online harvest service** - Worshippers at St George's, Waterlooville, in Hampshire, are to be joined by up to one hundred of its namesake churches around the world when its harvest festival is broadcast live on social media in October. The thanksgiving service will be the last to be broadcast as part of the year-long Church of England initiative ChurchLive, which invited churches across the UK to record their Sunday services using a smartphone with the mobile app Periscope, allowing users to stream videos live ...



**+++ New outbreak of polio hits Nigeria** - An outbreak of polio has struck parts of Nigeria that are largely inaccessible to the outside world because of fighting between Islamist militants and the military, where thousands of children are already suffering from severe malnutrition. Two children were diagnosed this week with paralysis due to wild poliovirus, in a part of Borno state which has been out of reach for the medical teams carrying out immunisations because of attacks by the militant group Boko Haram. UNICEF said that an emergency vaccination programme had been launched immediately, to reach about one million children under five years of age in Borno state.

**+++ Disabled vicar tackles John o’Groats to Land’s End** - A disabled vicar plans to propel his wheelchair from John o’Groats to Land’s End to raise funds for a new church. The Vicar of St John’s, Bransholme, Hull, the Revd Matthew Martinson (*below*), has not walked since he woke up one morning six years ago with no feeling in his legs. Previously, he had undergone operations for prolapsed discs, trapped nerves, and other spinal and pelvic problems. He believes that his condition could be a result of his chaotic early life, which included drug-taking,

sleeping rough, and being sentenced to 11 years for armed robbery. It was while he was in prison that he came to God, and six years ago was ordained.

**+++ South Sudanese Christians unite in prayer** - All Saints Cathedral in Juba was the setting for an ecumenical prayer service on Thursday, organised by the South Sudan Council of Churches. The congregation was welcomed by the Anglican Bishop of Rejaf, the Rt Revd Enoch Tombe Stephen, who on behalf of Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, who was out of the country, thanked a group who had travelled from Nairobi in Kenya to join in the service, led by former Archbishop Dr Eliud Wabukala. The Kenyan delegation also included the former moderator of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, the Very Revd Dr Jessey Kamau. They were joined by the Revd Dr Lydia Mwaniki, director of theology for the All Africa Council of Churches. South Sudanese clergy taking part in the service included Bishop Dr Isaiah Dau, the general overseer of the Sudan and South Sudan Pentecostal Church, and the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in South Sudan, the Archbishop of Juba, the Most Revd Paulino Lukudu Loro. "Thank you all for coming to pray

with us here in South Sudan at this trying moments,” Bishop Enoch said. “These are the moments that the church must work hard and also continue to pray for the president the first vice president and the vice president with all their cabinet that God in his mercy will help them” Archbishop Loro called on the pastors from different denomination “to work together as a team in the whole country to embrace peace and love among ourselves.” He said that church leaders had prepared a document during a peace training session the previous weekend; and he challenged them to “put the document into action [to give it] meaning.”

## News links

### Mail

Report on reactions from Londoners to the vote to leave the EU. Church of England priest, Rosemarie Mallett, who is British with roots in Barbados is quoted saying, the worst moment was when her teenage daughter, who had never previously had any reason to feel unwelcome here, asked: "Mum, do we have to leave?"

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3746906/In-proudly-multi-cultural-London-Brexit-hard-stomach.html?>

[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](#)

## **Fundraising**

Report of the recent launch by the Home Secretary at Lambeth Palace of schemes to encourage community groups to sponsor a refugee family, and help individuals support refugees in their area. The full community sponsorship scheme aims to help community groups including charities, faith groups, churches and businesses support resettled refugees in the UK.

<http://fundraising.co.uk/2016/08/18/community-sponsorship-scheme-launches-help-refugees/#.V7aZNGU-DVo>

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