



Rector to celebrate historic Royal anniversary

On September 9 Her Majesty the Queen will become the longest reigning monarch in British history, and Royal fan the Rev Derek Kerr plans to celebrate the occasion.

The rector of Drummaul, Duneane and Ballyscullion is hosting an exhibition of Royal Memorabilia in Randalstown Parish Hall from September 18-20.

The exhibition will not only mark this historic Royal milestone, but will raise funds for projects to be delivered by a Fields of Life mission trip to Uganda planned for January 2017. Fields of Life is Her Majesty's chosen Northern Ireland Diamond Jubilee charity.

In addition to the exhibition, Derek also plans to give his renowned Royal Talk at 8pm on Friday 18 and Saturday 19.

Derek has long had a passion for all things Royal, and is an avid collector of Royal memorabilia. In February 2012, Drummaul Parish hosted a weekend of events to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen's accession to the throne, with an exhibition and special Jubilee Service.

And in April 2011, Derek was one of the thousands who camped out overnight to get a bird's eye view of the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

The exhibition in Randalstown will be open on Friday September 18 from 7pm-10.30pm;

Saturday September 19 from 10.30am-10.30pm, and will remain open after church on Sunday September 20 until 10.30pm. All proceeds will go towards the Fields of Life January 2017 trip to Tabiro, Uganda.

For further details contact Derek on 028 9447 2561 or email derepkerr@gmail.com

Kerry missionary wins Mgr Hugh O'Flaherty award

The 2015 Hugh O'Flaherty International Humanitarian Award has been bestowed on an Irish missionary who hails from Co Kerry.

Fr Seán Myers is a Redemptorist missionary serving in Brazil. He was nominated for the award by the local community in Fossa, where he was born.

The award is made to individuals who embody the same humanitarian endeavour as Mgr Hugh O'Flaherty who helped save the lives of over 6,500 people, including Jews and Allied soldiers, from the Nazis in occupied Rome during World War II.

Making the announcement, the Chairperson of the Hugh O'Flaherty Memorial Committee Jerry



O'Grady said, "Fr Seán is a worthy recipient and even at the age of 85, continues to serve his community in Brazil in a parish over half the size of Ireland."

This year marks the eighth year of the memorial to the Vatican Pimpernel, organised to raise awareness of the humanitarian work carried out by Mgr O'Flaherty.

Over the past few months nominations have been invited for people or organisations, which have displayed the same humanitarian ideals and principals of the Monsignor and would be deserving of this award.

A shortlist of 10 nominees was considered by the independent award panel, at which it was

agreed that Fr Myers would receive the award for 2015. Fr Myers was nominated by the Fossa community, the place of his birth some 85 years ago.

In the spring of 1960, the recently ordained Fr Seán and two Redemptorist colleagues arrived in north east Brazil and soon assumed responsibility for a parish over half the size of the island of Ireland.

Fr Seán's nomination stated, "Much of the part of Brazil to which he was assigned in 1960 was unknown, inaccessible, ignored and neglected by the authorities. He quickly became widely known as 'Padre Joao'. During his parish visits to the remote villages and homesteads in the interior, he encountered people who lived in isolation, without water, often hungry, illiterate and undocumented."

"He found people who lived in fear of eviction, women who worried about loss in childbirth and children who spent their days tending animals. Having no deeds or proof of ownership ensured vulnerability when faced with the notorious 'land grabbers' and corrupt officials. They felt that nobody cared about them."

"Fr Seán knew that nobody cared about them! He identified with their sense of helplessness

and hopelessness. He knew the value of education, good health and the necessity of water and road access. His humanitarian and Christian spirit told him he had no option but to help.”

Because of the scale and remoteness of his parish, it has not been possible to communicate with Fr Seán on the decision to award him the 2015 Hugh O’Flaherty International Humanitarian Award, however, representatives of his family and the Fossa community expressed their delight to see him recognised in this way.

The Hugh O’Flaherty International Humanitarian Award will be presented to Fr Sean Myers by the Mayor of Killarney on Saturday 31 October at the awards ceremony in the Killarney Plaza Hotel.

Previous awarded winners include war surgeon Dr John Beavis and anti-suicide campaigner Donal Walsh.

Dublin and Glendalough mission focus - Come and C

The invitation to ‘Come & C’ – the call of Jesus to the first disciples – will be issued throughout Dublin and Glendalough in 2016. The initiative is aimed at the entire United Dioceses and will look



COME&C

at ways of supporting individuals and parishes in their discipleship. It will also encourage people to see that what they do in their parishes nurtures and supports the whole dioceses.

Before the initiative gets underway, there is an opportunity for members of the dioceses to shape the themes of the year at the Come & C Day on Saturday September 12 from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm in The High School, Rathgar.

The day will have a similar format to the very successful Diocesan Growth Forum which took place in The High School in 2012. This time it will provide an opportunity to reflect on the outcome of the Come & C survey which was completed by parishioners last year.

A member of the clergy and four parishioners from every parish in Dublin and Glendalough have been invited to the forum. Facilitated by Dr David Tuohy SJ, they will look at the responses to the Come & C survey against the backdrop of the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion.

The Marks of Mission are:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Come & C will take place in a very significant year in the life of Ireland and while the nation as a whole is taking stock of the last century and its identity we in Dublin and Glendalough will have the opportunity to examine our own identity. There will be occasion to celebrate what is happening in the dioceses, support and enhance current initiatives and develop new initiatives.

The September 12 event will allow people from all corners of the dioceses to listen to each other's perspectives, reflect on what is already happening in the dioceses and in individual parishes and draw strength from that and look to the future. Themes for Come & C 2016 will emerge from the discussions which take place. Those present will be asked to share what they have heard on the day with others in their Rural Deaneries and in their own parishes.

If you have not yet responded to the invitation to attend please do so as soon as possible as space is very limited. Contact the Archbishop's secretary at archdublinoffice@gmail.com.

The Come & C report can be downloaded from the diocesan website by clicking on the link at <http://dublin.anglican.org/dioceses/index.php>

Legion of Mary founder Frank Duff a model of robust lay leadership

The Archdiocese of Dublin is to devote time in the future to the formation of families and young people Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has signalled.

In his homily for a family Mass at the parish of St Peter's in Phibsborough, which was followed by the dedication of a room in honour of the Legion of Mary founder, Frank Duff, the Archbishop said the Legion would be in the vanguard of the formation of a new generation of trained, voluntary catechists and pastoral animators.

He said these would place themselves at the service of parishes to make them truly places of faith education.

In a tribute to Frank Duff, the civil servant who was instrumental to the setting up and promotion of the Legion in Ireland and beyond, Archbishop Martin said he was acutely aware decades ago of how the institutional structure of the Catholic Church in Ireland, which outwardly appeared so robust, in fact had within itself an innate debilitating factor – the lack of faith formation for and trust in lay men and women.

Frank Duff, he said, stood as “a model of robust lay leadership in the Church.

“He was a humble man, yet in no way obsequious; he respected authority yet could be a formidable challenger of authority,” the Archbishop commented.

He warned that there was a temptation on the part of many in the Church today to feel that if people have difficulties in believing, then the Church should make belief easier, and try to remove the things which people find hard to accept in order to create a religion to which anyone who wants to be “more or less” a good person, can “more or less” belong to the disciples of Jesus.

“Rather than attempting to water down the message of Jesus we should present the message of Jesus in its fullness and challenge and provoke people to respond more fully and more generously to that message,” Dr Martin suggested.

The challenge of following Jesus is never about adapting to public opinion surveys, but about real commitment and about conversion., he said and added, “God is never revealed through arrogance.”

Describing Frank Duff as “a man who made an extraordinary contribution to the life of the Church” the Archbishop said his ideas on the role of the laity were “progressive and revolutionary”.

“Frank Duff was a layman and never dreamt of being anything other than being a layman. He was immensely proud to have been invited to an Ecumenical Council as a layman. He understood that being a lay person should in no way mean being a sort of second-class Christian,” he said.

He saw that lay and cleric is called to holiness and that holiness is in no way the privilege of the ordained, or the automatic right of any category within the Church.

The Archbishop acknowledged that Frank Duff’s vision of the role of lay people in the Church was not fully understood by Church authorities in Ireland. “He was a person absolutely loyal to the Church, but in no way a yes man,” he said.

BBC stands by ‘unpopular’ religious Radio 4 programmes

The BBC Trust has said it has no plans to change the corporation’s religious radio

programmes, despite their apparent lack of popularity.

In a public consultation, the governing body of the broadcaster found that religious programmes were the most poorly rated by listeners, with “just under two-thirds” of the Radio 4 audience (63 per cent) rating them as “good”.

They were also found to be the least popular, attracting only 15 per cent of Radio 4 listeners compared with 91 per cent who listen to “in-depth factual programmes”.

Despite this, the report also stated that “Radio 4 is well aware of its listeners’ range of views on this subject and has no plans for change to its output at present.”

The National Secular Society’s (NSS) Stephen Evans said in a statement: “It is extraordinary that such a critical review could result in no action being taken. What was the purpose of conducting a public

consultation and review, if the findings are to be ignored?”

The NSS also said that Thought for the Day should be reformatted to include non-religious voices.

Mr Evans added: “To have a slot in the middle Radio 4’s flagship news and current affairs programme, reserved only for religious speakers, to make sometimes very contentious points which go completely unchallenged, is unjustifiable. It demonstrates an unhealthy and anachronistic deference to religion unworthy of Britain’s public-service broadcaster.”

Acknowledging this, the BBC Trust said, “several respondents call for the secularisation” of Thought for The Day, “although a substantial number of listeners maintain that religion does have a place on the programme.”

Popemobile shipped to USA ahead of Papal visit

More than a month before Pope Francis is scheduled to arrive in the United States, his popemobile has landed on US shores.

“A Jeep Wrangler will be used as the popemobile in the USA (like the one used in Ecuador in July 2015),” the Vatican press office said in a statement on August 20.

A Vatican official added that there will be more than one vehicle on hand for Pope Francis, who will need a popemobile in Washington, New York and Philadelphia. “There is always a reserve” in case of malfunction, the official said.

The vehicles, the Vatican said, have “already been given to the Secret Service” for safekeeping before the Pope’s arrival. An air cargo company is used for sending the popemobile abroad before papal trips.

The Vatican’s popemobile fleet has included vehicles from Mercedes, Toyota, Isuzu, Kia, Hyundai and Land Rover as well as Jeep. And in the Philippines in January, locals adapted their typical “jeepney” bus into a popemobile.

A popemobile, with either open sides or bullet-proof glass sides, elevates the Pope as he rides through a crowd, making it easier for more people to see him.

Media digest

Ind/Star/Metro/Guard/Mail/BBC/Tel/Exp/ Mirror/Eve Stand

Reports on the aftermath of the crash of a Hawker Hunter jet onto a stretch of the A27 near Shoreham which is believed to have killed 11 people. They say residents attended St Mary de Haura Church, Shoreham for a memorial service where prayers for the crash victims and their families were said and a minute's silence was held.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/shoreham-airshow-crash-floral-tributes-mark-the-scene-as-a-grim-recovery-mission-begins-10468487.html>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/460880/Tributes-victims-airshow-disaster-death-toll-rises-footie-lads>

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/08/23/shoreham-airshow-crash-dashcam-footage-emerges-as-death-toll-expected-to-rise-again-5357305/>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/aug/23/shoreham-air-show-crash-first-three-victims-named>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3207016/Pilot-pulled-burning-wreckage-plane-crashes-Shoreham-Airshow.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34032209>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/600164/Victims-Shoreham-Airshow-crash-West-Sussex>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/aviation/11818912/Shoreham-air-show-plane-crash-LIVE.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/shoreham-airshow-crash-specialist-recovery-6304451>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/shoreham-airshow-crash-two-footballers-and-personal-trainer-named-among-victims-a2919241.html>

BBC

Report on school admissions policies and fraudulent applications by parents. It mentions parents who attend church just to fulfill school admissions criteria. It states London Diocesan Board of Schools hopes to drop the religious qualification from admissions. Father Martin Hislop, priest in charge of St Luke's church in Kingston, Surrey, is quoted on a decision to abolish faith as an admissions criteria.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34014556>

Times

Report that the proportion of pupils being educated at grammar schools has reached the highest for more than 35 years. It mentions that David Cameron's daughter, Nancy, will start at Grey Coat Hospital, a Church of England comprehensive school with academy status.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4536086.ece>

Ind

Article on the cost of kitting out a child for school which it says averages £236 according to a study commissioned by Santander. It says the start of term cost is higher in church foundation or trust schools - £375 compared to £371 in private schools.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/church-schools-top-the-league-as-study-reveals-cost-of-kitting-out-a-child-for-the-school-year-10468524.html>

Tel

Article on the Assisted Dying bill to be debated by the House of Commons next month. It says a group of 80 doctors have written an open letter to MPs warning the bill could put pressure on vulnerable people to end their lives.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/assisted-dying/11819407/Assisted-dying-leaves-vulnerable-at-risk-warns-alliance-of-doctors.html>

BBC

Report that remains at a 12th Century abbey in Neath Port Talbot have been restored following a £240,000 grant. It says the Grade-I listed chapter house and infirmary at Margam Abbey in Port Talbot have undergone "extensive" repairs by Neath Port Talbot council.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-33989156>

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