



## **C of I leader to speak of his work behind the scenes at the Pope's visit**

Greg Fromholz, Dublin and Glendalough's Coordinator for Young Adults, will be the speaker at the Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland's Autumn Lecture preceding its AGM on Saturday, September 29th, in Holy Trinity, Rathmines, where he is also a member of the Rubicon team.

His title, *Cable Ties & Icons: Ecumenism: behind the Scenes at the Pope's Visit to Ireland*, refers to his work for

**August 30, 2018**

the World Meeting of Families as co-ordinator of performers and artists taking part in the WMOF presentations at the RDS Family Arena and at the Pope's Mass in the Phoenix Park.

He writes: "I was involved with everything from booking the artists, including a Protestant NI band (Rend Collective) to play at the Papal Mass, a rare thing, to overseeing the relics and icons at the Mass – including cable-tying them down as the Pope was fast approaching – to co-creating the pre/post programmes of the Mass (with Ger Gallagher) and serving in a myriad of consultation roles through out the week; also co-creating & running the main stage RDS programme at the WMOF."

The biblical principles of service and trust applied at every turn, he remarks.

All are most welcome to attend his presentation at Holy Trinity, Rathmines, Dublin 6, on Saturday September 29th. Admission free to members; €5 for others. Coffee and registration 10am. Address followed by discussion: 10.30am. AGM to follow.

BACI exists to serve as a 'bridge' between clerical and lay, academic and faith-based approaches to the Bible within the Church of Ireland and in conversation with ecumenical partners.

The Honorary Patrons of BACI are their Graces, the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Reverend Richard Clarke and the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Reverend Michael Jackson.

August 30, 2018

## Equating victims to terrorists is 'major concern' at legacy events

Legacy consultation meetings across Northern Ireland have revealed a strong consensus that equating perpetrators to victims in law is the number one issue of concern, the News Letter reports.

The South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF) held 10 public events to discuss the ongoing government consultation on dealing with the past.

Kenny Donaldson of SEFF said 95% of the 325 people who gave feedback indicated that the definition of victim in the 2006 Victims and Survivors (NI) Order was “a major concern”.

He added: “Many indicated that it is this issue which causes them deepest distress, that the state enables those who perpetrated terrorism and criminal violence to be classified as victims.

“In open discussion many victims spoke of their hurt that ‘communal victimhood’ was being accepted by the establishment as the prevailing narrative – where everyone is equally responsible for every murder.”

The only prospect for changing the definition, he said, was fresh Westminster legislation to put Troubles and Islamist terror victims on an equal footing.



**Nothing sacred: Russian spies tried hacking Orthodox clergy, Religious News Service reports - <https://religionnews.com/2018/08/27/nothing-sacred-russian-spies-tried-hacking-orthodox-clergy/> ...**

Alan Lewis of Markethill-based Families Research and Policy Unit (FRPU) also said victims had raised the definition in all six of their consultation meetings across NI.

“It’s evident that definition of a victim is the number one issue of concern amongst genuine victims,” he said.

Fermanagh UUP MLA Rosemary Barton asked why the Commission for Victims and Survivors was not holding open public events to gauge opinion on the legacy consultation. She said the commission has embarked on “closed-group sessions” for which interested people must register to attend.

**August 30, 2018**

But a spokeswoman for the commission responded that it was engaging extensively in a “safe and ethical way” and that it “values every voice by supporting individuals and aiding their understanding in order to share their contribution”.

“The commission has previously witnessed how large public events can result in “retraumatising individuals” and has been engaging with stakeholders across the British Isles in a variety of ways since May.”

The statutory definition of a victim is a matter for government, although Commissioner Judith Thompson “does acknowledge and understand the difficulties” it presents for some victims and survivors. The Northern Ireland Office said the consultation runs until September 10 and everyone is encouraged to submit their views at [www.gov.uk/nio](http://www.gov.uk/nio).

## **Olive Foley: 'Losing Anthony created a void that's impossible to fill'**

Many's the time rugby legend Anthony 'Axel' Foley heard the cheers of the crowd in the RDS as he lined out for his beloved Munster but this time it was his widow who brought the attendees to their feet at the three-day World Meeting of Families event that preceded the Pope's visit last weekend.

Olive Foley's words of remembrance and reflection about the husband she loved and the forces that pulled her



August 30, 2018



**Olive Foley, widow of Munster coach Anthony 'Axel' Foley, speaking at the World Meeting of Families in Dublin**

through his untimely loss earned a standing ovation, sustained applause, and more than a few tears.

From the moment she stepped up to the podium, she stilled the 1,000-plus audience like a fly-half about to take a penalty.

Her words flew straight to the heart. The last time I spoke at an event this size was at Anthony's funeral," she said.

That was two years ago this October after Anthony, then Munster's head coach, died of a heart attack in Paris hours before the club was due to play in a Champions Cup match. Olive paid a tearful tribute to her husband, who was just 42 and left behind their two sons, Tony, who was 11, and Dan, just 8.



**Ronan O'Gara was moved to tears while listening to Olive Foley speak at the RDS.**

“It’s fair to say he was an idol to many but nowhere was he idolised more than at home,” she said.

“Many of you have experienced loss. Mine is no greater than any of yours, but losing Anthony with no notice — my husband, my confidant, my best friend but perhaps most of all the father of my children — it created a void that’s impossible to fill.”

She said, family, however, has helped her deal with the pain. “I have a great family,” she said. “My immediate family, I’ve Anthony’s family, I’ve my family of friends, I’ve my family of faith, and my family of church. And all of these are essential.

“But I also have the family of sport.

**August 30, 2018**

“In those darkest hours, the arms of that family wrapped themselves around me and my family in a way that was quite remarkable and they have done so ever since.

“Anthony gave so much to sport but sport has given so much back. He would be very proud today that all those that he soldiered with, those he coached, those he played with or against would join as one big family and wrap us, his family, in a blanket of support.”

The day after Anthony was buried, Munster won at Thomond Park and the players brought Tony and Dan into their post-match team huddle and sang the team anthem, ‘Stand Up And Fight’ for them.

“When the circle wrapped around my boys that day, it was a symbol of what the family of sport is about,” she said. “As much as it is about being there for the great days, it’s about being there for you on the worst of days when you’re on your knees.”

Anthony’s former teammate, Ronan O’Gara, who wiped away tears as he listened to Olive talk, also paid tribute. “It’s a cliché, but the family that Axel led was incredibly tight,” he said. Based on report by Caroline O’Doherty in The Irish Examiner.

## **Welsh cathedral axes music team**

The music team of a cathedral in north Wales has been made redundant as bosses at the landmark venue continue to wrestle with "financial pressure".



August 30, 2018



The director of music at St Asaph Cathedral in Denbighshire, Alan McGuinness and the assistant director of music, John Hosking, have both lost their jobs.

The Dean at St Asaph Cathedral, Very Rev Nigel Williams thanked the two men for their "exemplary performance, hard work and dedication".

In a statement seen by local newspaper the Rhyl Journal, he said: "It is with the greatest regret that we are no longer able to sustain the employment arrangement of a director of music and an assistant director of music.

"Therefore, the posts in their current form, are being made redundant.

"We wish Alan and John all the best in their future careers."

Very Rev Williams also said "modest temporary arrangements" were being introduced to ensure standards

**August 30, 2018**

of music and worship at St Asaph's Cathedral shall not suffer.

Earlier this month, he warned of budget cuts and a "small number of redundancies", saying the attraction - thought to be the smallest Anglican cathedral in Great Britain - has been under "financial pressure for some time".

## **Former Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks brands Corbyn an antisemite**

Former Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks brands Corbyn an antisemite who leads Her Majesty's opposition.

In a rare and extraordinary political attack from a religious leader, Sacks says Corbyn "has given support to racists, terrorists and dealers of hate who want to kill Jews and remove Israel from the map".

Sacks continues: "When [Corbyn] implies that, however long they have lived here, Jews are not fully British, he is using the language of classic pre-war European anti-Semitism. When challenged with such facts, the evidence for which is before our eyes, first he denies, then he equivocates, then he obfuscates.

"This is low, dishonest and dangerous. He has legitimised the public expression of hate, and where he leads, others will follow."

Sacks added: "Now, within living memory of the Holocaust, and while Jews are being murdered elsewhere in Europe for

**August 30, 2018**

being Jews, we have an anti-Semite as the leader of the Labour Party and Her Majesty's Opposition. That is why Jews feel so threatened by Mr Corbyn and those who support him."

## **Tractor run planned for Donacloney inter-church mission**

Donacloney Mission 18 is organising a tractor run for Saturday, 1st September.

In the months since January 2018, residents of Donaghcloney have become familiar with the "Mission 18: Living Hope for you" logo. It has appeared on flyers for different events and on social media, and is now to be seen on PVC banners in particular locations throughout the village.

The banners highlight 23rd-30th September and include the denominational names of four churches - Church of Ireland, Elim, Methodist and Presbyterian.

Local butcher William Holmes says: "On Saturday 1st September we're having a Tractor Run and BBQ, starting at 4.00pm at Donacloney Presbyterian Church car park. There is a nine mile route planned through Donacloney and Waringstown, followed by a barbecue and the Tractor Story by George Conn in Donacloney Presbyterian Church Hall."

The 23rd – 30th September on the banner flags up the centrepiece to all that the Living Hope Team has planned. In that week special meetings will be held in Donacloney Elim

**August 30, 2018**

Church at 8.00pm each evening. The meetings are open to everyone in the village and area, and Baptist Pastor Clifford Morrison will be explaining each night how hope is found in Jesus Christ.

Colin Hylands from Child Evangelism Fellowship will be leading children's events in Donacloney Church of Ireland Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 23rd, and in the early evening of Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th.

There are also special events for teenagers on different evenings of the week, and the New Line Bus Ministries team will be present in the village.

“We want to say a big thank you to all who have helped so far with Donacloney Mission 18,” says William Holmes. “It has been wonderful to receive encouragement from people in the village and far beyond. Different people seem to be following the Donacloney Mission 18 Facebook page, and several have said that it's great to see the churches working together.

“But we all know that Jesus can make a real difference to people's lives, and we all want people of every age and from any background to find a Living Hope in Him. That's what it's all about.”

## **Myanmar: Save the Children welcomes Report on Refugee Suffering**

Save the Children has welcomed the main findings and recommendations of the [Report of the Independent](#)

**August 30, 2018**

[International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar](#) released this week.

A year after renewed violence and atrocities in Rakhine State caused over 700,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh, the devastating impact on children has been made clear. In particular, the fact-finding mission found:

- Widespread and systematic attacks on the civilian population in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States, which amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes, and possibly genocide perpetrated against the Rohingya.
- In renewed violence in Rakhine State since August 2017, children were subjected to, and witnessed, serious human rights violations including killing, maiming, and sexual violence. Children were killed in front of their parents, and young girls were targeted for sexual violence. Of approximately 500,000 Rohingya children in Bangladesh, many fled alone after their parents were killed or after being separated from their families. The Mission met many children with visible injuries matching accounts of being shot, stabbed or burned.

The mission proposed an accountability process that is transformative, victim-centered, comprehensive, and inclusive, and said that it must come from the international community in order to break the climate of impunity and ensure that all State institutions are answerable to the people.



August 30, 2018



In response to the fact-finding mission report, Save the Children Country Director in Myanmar, Michael McGrath said:

“The evidence presented by the International Independent fact-finding mission is clear. Thousands of children in Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan states have suffered enormously at the hands of the Myanmar military and other groups, and the time for greater action is long overdue.

“Children and their families have been murdered, sexually assaulted and forced to flee burning villages, and they have not yet seen the justice they deserve. Establishing the facts through the fact-finding mission was a critical first step to achieving justice, however, now there must be a move toward investigations for prosecution in order to ensure accountability.

**August 30, 2018**

“Save the Children is calling on the UN Security Council to refer Myanmar to the International Criminal Court without delay. We also urge the Human Rights Council to establish an international, impartial, and independent mechanism at the 39th session in September, resourced with experts who have specific experience to interview children who have suffered and witnessed atrocities. Children should also be provided support that enables them psychosocial support, and access to justice, reparations, and reintegration.

“Achieving a true measure of accountability is necessary to achieve justice, build trust for future repatriation, and send a powerful message that committing atrocities in Rakhine State and elsewhere will no longer be tolerated.

“To date, the Government of Myanmar has failed to take credible and timely steps to investigate the crimes that have occurred and end impunity. They have repeatedly denied responsibility, blocked independent investigations and impeded international human rights mechanisms, restricted humanitarian access, and imprisoned journalists investigating the issues. The international community needs to send a firm signal to all perpetrators, including the Myanmar military, that crimes of this magnitude will not be allowed to pass unaccounted for.”

A Myanmar government spokesman has rejected the report by United Nations investigators calling for top generals to be prosecuted for genocide, saying the international community was making "false allegations".

## **News briefs**

August 30, 2018

**+++Sanctuary and harvest in Carlow** - Philip McKinley, a Chaplain in Dublin City University will be the speaker at a Parish Harvest Thanksgiving Service in St Mary's Church, Carlow Town. St Mary's Church of Ireland, Church Street, Carlow Town, on Friday, 21 September, 2018 at 7.30pm.

On his upcoming visit to Carlow, he says: "Through the recent reception of Programme Refugees from Myanmar (Burma) and Syria, the people of Carlow have been presented with a fresh opportunity to rediscover the meaning of that old Irish phrase 'Céad míle fáilte'. In Biblical times and throughout much of Church history, migrants and refugees were offered 'sanctuary'. It is an ancient concept which is finding renewed traction across wider civil society in Europe and United States, especially in opposition to exclusive and protectionist political movements. At its root 'sanctuary' has strong Harvest themes, to 'share the edges of your field ... with the foreigner' (Lev 19.10). What then is our 'field' and how can we share 'sanctuary' with those coming to live amongst us?"

Places of Sanctuary Ireland is a network of groups in towns, cities and local communities which share the objectives of promoting the integration, inclusion and welfare of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants, by encouraging every sector of society to make a practical commitment to becoming places of welcome and safety.

Philip McKinley has been Chaplain in the Church of Ireland tradition in Dublin City University (DCU) since 2015. He is part of a brand new multi-denominational chaplaincy team to serve DCU's hugely diverse population of students. Philip is also involved with an organisation 'Places of Sanctuary'

**August 30, 2018**

Ireland which accredits schools, towns, sports clubs, etc. who demonstrate collective and structural welcome for asylum seekers and refugees.

**+++Deacons for Down & Dromore** - This year's Service of Ordination of Deacons took place in Shankill Parish Church, Lurgan, on Sunday 26 August. The ordination retreat leader and preacher was Bishop Grant LeMarquand who is also the diocesan Bible Week speaker.

650 people came along to support the candidates and take part in what was a truly inspirational service. Bishop Harold Miller ordained 4 deacons who will serve internships in the diocese. You may click on the links below to find out more about each of them:

- Jonathan Brown for Dromore Cathedral
- Emma Carson for Magheralin
- Peter Hilton for Hillsborough
- Karen Salmon for Shankill

**+++St Patrick's Dublin After Dark** - This All Hallows' Eve there will be another candlelit recital of suitably chilling music including Bach's immortal Toccata and Fugue in D minor, Saint-Saens Danse Macabre, Grieg In the Hall of the Mountain King and music from Pirates of the Caribbean, Ghostbusters and a little musical meddling from Harry Potter. The concert will conclude with a retiring collection in aid of Barnardos. Wed, Oct 31 at 6:15 pm

**+++Videos for organ players** - Church Music Dublin, in association with Pipeworks, has a new series of videos presented by Simon Harden. Subject: Organ Registration.



**August 30, 2018**

Ever wondered what stops to choose? Watch the first video here:

<https://www.churchmusicdublin.org/organ-registration/>

**+++C of I diocesan youth & children's co-ordinator** - The Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh has appointed Damian Shorten as the new Diocesan Youth and Children's Co-ordinator for Elphin and Ardagh. The aim of this role is to support individual parish groups and other diocesan organisations as they nurture and foster Christian faith development in children and young people in the diocese.

Talking about Damian's appointment Bishop Ferran writes: "Since we learned that Marian Edwards was leaving her role as one of our children and youth co-ordinators to take up a new position in Ballina over the summer, we have been praying and searching for someone to fill her shoes. I am delighted that Damian Shorten is to take up the role.

Damian will continue to be the part-time lay pastor for the Riverstown Group of parishes and combine it with covering the Ardagh part of the diocese, working with schools and training and encouraging Sunday school leaders and youth leaders. Damian is well qualified for the





**August 30, 2018**

role and I believe he is an answer to our prayers.”

Damian says: “I am delighted to have been given this opportunity of wider ministry in the Dioceses of Elphin and Ardagh. I look forward to working with leaders in our parishes, both ordained and lay, along with teachers, to encourage and support them in their vital work with the children and young people they have contact with. In all this, it is my hope that more and more children and teenagers come to trust in and live for the true God revealed in Jesus Christ, whom to know is eternal life and whom to serve is perfect freedom. Please do pray for me, my wife Amy, and son Arthur as we adjust to this new venture, and for the Spirit’s enabling to do it to God’s glory.”

