



Glorious weather for Tour de Foyle charity event

Hundreds of cyclists, walkers and runners took advantage of ideal weather conditions to take part in this year's Tour de Foyle 10-80 charity event.

The annual event is organised jointly by the North West Methodist Mission and the Churches Trust, and among those who took part in Saturday's 10k Walk were leaders of the four main Christian churches in Londonderry.

The 'Tour' is a fun event which offers people across the community an opportunity to raise funds for the homeless and those in need in the city.

The 80k Cycle was the first of the three elements to begin. Almost 300 cyclists set off from the Foyle Arena, in St Columb's Park, at 8am. They headed for Magilligan Point, where they boarded the ferry across to Greencastle, before cycling back to their starting point, completing a scenic lap of Lough Foyle.

Elite cyclists were back 'home' by the time the 10k Run and 10k Walk got under way at 11am. These participants were given a blessing by the Methodist Church's District Superintendent, Rev Peter Murray, who had earlier done the same for the cyclists.

Rev Murray was then joined on the walk by the Clerk of the Derry and Donegal Presbytery, Rev Dr Robert Buick, the Bishop of Derry, Dr Donal

McKeown, and the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good. Bishop Good's wife, Mary, also took part.

Volunteers from the Rapid Relief Team (RRT) provided refreshments for the cyclists at Magilligan Pier, and barbequed burgers at St Columb's Park for all those who completed 'the Tour'.

The NW Methodist Mission has been delivering services to homeless men in Londonderry for 80 years. It provides temporary accommodation, training and re-skilling, advocacy, resettlement and tenancy support. It also provides outreach work and a drop-in facility. The Churches' Trust is an interdenominational organisation established by the leaders of the main Christian churches to respond to deprivation in our community. One of its best-known initiatives is the Pantry Project, a food bank which provides an emergency response to feed families and individuals in temporary crisis situations.

C of I ordinations

On Sunday in St Canice's cathedral, Kilkenny, the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory, the Rt Revd Michael Burrows, ordained the Revd David

Compton to the priesthood. Mr Compton will serve as a curate in the Kilkenny union of parishes which is composed of St Canice's and St John's, Kilkenny, Aghour and Kilmanagh.



This year's Service of Ordination of Presbyters/ Priests in Down and Dromore Diocese took place in Down Cathedral on Sunday 28 August. Bishop Harold Miller ordained six presbyters for curacies in the diocese and the cathedral was filled with their families, supporters and sponsors.

The preacher was Bishop Michael Nazir–Ali, the former Bishop of Rochester. Bishop Michael said he felt privileged to speak at a service of

ordination in Down Cathedral, which has such close associations with the beginnings of Christian faith in Ireland.

He continued: "I'm very conscious of the contribution that the church in Ireland has made down the centuries in the cause of mission and ministry throughout the world, and we thank God for that and for the continuation of that story as it is represented in the ordination of these people this afternoon."

Bishop Michael preached from Isaiah 61 and from the gospel reading in John 19 when the risen Christ appears to the fearful disciples in the upper room. As Jesus comes he brings a new, transformative order into the midst of the old.

The Bishop said that those being ordained would be representatives of this new order of peace – peace with God and peace with one another, and called to: "Reconcile people to God and one another; to restoration of the poor into that image which God has for them; to the recovery of sight to those who have lost that very sense of their own destiny; to the release of those who are bound by chains they cannot see; to the renewal

of the church to its first love and to the rebuilding of what has been destroyed.”

Click on the links below to find out more about each of the presbyters:

- [Revd Bill Donoghue](#) for the curacy of Willowfield
- [Revd Raymond Kettle](#) 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 Garvaghy

Mothers' Union urges parents to talk about perils of sexting

Mothers' Union recently spoke on Premier Christian Radio News Hour about the new figures released by the NSPCC showing how most parents believe the idea of sending indecent

images via text to be harmful, but nearly six in 10 have not spoken to their children about the issue.

Rachel Aston, Social Policy Manager, told Premier's News Hour many are oblivious as to what's happening on a teenager's phone. She said: "Parents might feel like they know what's going on with their children but the problem of sexting suggests perhaps they haven't got a grip on it."

Mothers' Union are encouraging parents to talk more to their children but also understand that relationships are formed differently to how they were a generation ago. "Parents need to be talking about relationships but also understanding technology and how the two interface and understanding that they're perhaps inseparable sometimes," Rachel said.

For more guidance and to read the MU report on the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood please go to the MU Bye Buy Childhood website

Listen to the interview on the Premier Christian Radio website

Book on dementia wins Michael Ramsey Prize

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has awarded the 2016 Michael Ramsey Prize for theological writing to *Dementia: Living in the Memories of God* by John Swinton at a ceremony at the Greenbelt festival. The winner received a cheque for £10,000.

Speaking about the winning entry, the Archbishop, who presided over the prize for the first time, said: "After much thought and struggle, we concluded that John Swinton's book should take the Michael Ramsey Prize this year. It is a cross-disciplinary book that goes straight to the heart of tackling one of the most profound failures of our society - the failure to value people in other than economic terms and to see the dignity of the human person.

"John has written a book which is deeply challenging and brings to bear a coherent theological approach, with clinical background and understanding, to an issue that has touched many of us, and is one of the great issues of our



Archbishop Justin Welby with John Swinton, the winner of the 2016 Michael Ramsey Prize, following the award ceremony at Greenbelt

society. He has done the church and our country a huge service."

The Archbishop also paid tribute the runner up book, Faith & Struggle on Smokey Mountain by Benigno Beltran, which he said contained "profound spirituality and immensely creative theological thinking".

On receiving the prize John Swinton said: "I am really pleased to win the Michael Ramsey Prize and grateful for the hard work the judges have

put in and for everybody who has been involved. My hope is that this book helps us to recognise that in the Kingdom of God everything looks different. Even in something as apparently hopeless as dementia you can find possibilities, because God is a God who never forgets us, who says: 'I will always be with you, I will always be for you, in all things at all times.'

"It's not what we remember about ourselves that matters, it's what God remembers about us - and that's not just for people with dementia, that's for all of us. I hope the book will help us to open up our understanding of what it means to be a human being, of what it means to have a vocation, of what it means to trust in God in all things at all times."

For more information about the Michael Ramsey Prize visit www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk

Pope Francis thanks the Church in Poland for World Youth Day efforts

Pope Francis has thanked the Church in Poland for its hospitality during World Youth Day.

The letter, released by the Bishops Conference of Poland, expresses the Pontiff's gratitude towards Catholics in the eastern European country.

The Pope wrote that he had been “deeply moved by your strong faith and the unwavering hope that you have kept in spite of difficulties and tragedies, and by your fervent love, which animates your human and Christian pilgrimage.”

World Youth Day took place between July 25 – 31 in the city of Kraków. Pope Francis took part in a Eucharist celebration at the Shrine of our Lady of Czestochowa to mark the 1050th anniversary of Poland becoming a Christian nation. He also visited the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz.

In the letter he describes the memory of these experiences as being “dear” to him and went on to say: “I find great joy in remembering the encounter with the young people who came from different nations.”

He added: “I assure you of my prayers so that the Church in Poland may continue advancing on its path with perseverance and courage, showing

the Lord's merciful love to all. Please, also pray for me. I heartily bless you all."

Pope Benedict XVI reveals his favourite saints

Are you wondering what happened to Pope Benedict XVI ever since he stepped out of the limelight after he decided to resign in February 2013?

Pope Francis' predecessor recently granted a rare interview with the Italian newspaper La Repubblica, where he talked about his term as the Roman Catholic Church leader, his life after his resignation, and even his personal favourite saints.

Pope Benedict XVI said he has been happy and at peace since his resignation. He also reflected on the "smaller and larger difficulties" he encountered as pope, which he said he was able to overcome through the "many graces" borne out of the fact that he wasn't alone in his journey.

"From the beginning I was conscious of my limits and I accepted, as I have always sought to do in



Pope Benedict XVI holds his last general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Feb. 27, 2013.

my life, in a spirit of obedience," Pope Benedict XVI said, as quoted by **The Catholic News Agency**.

"I realised that all I had to do I couldn't do alone and so I was almost forced to put myself in the hands of God, to entrust myself to Jesus, to whom, as I gradually wrote my volume on him (Jesus of Nazareth), I felt bound by an old and ever deeper friendship," he added.

The German former pontiff also shared how he prayed to the Blessed Virgin Mary in times of hardships.

Aside from Jesus Christ and Mary, he also sought the intercession of his namesake, Saint Benedict, during times of need. He further shared how St. Augustine and St. Bonaventure, has always been his "travel companions for life" and "masters of the Spirit."

Pope Benedict also said that another saint that has been his close companion throughout his journey is St. Francis, whom he described as "the first to intuit that the world is the mirror of the creative love of God, from whom we come and toward whom we are journeying."

News briefs

+++ Dublin ordinations - On Sunday September 18 Archbishop Michael Jackson will preside at the ordination of four new Deacons in Christ Church Cathedral. Following their ordination to the diaconate they will serve as Intern Deacons in parishes in Dublin and Glendalough. Tom O'Brien will serve in St Mary's Parish in Howth, Rebecca Guildea will serve in Zion Parish in Rathgar, Stuart Moles will serve in St Patrick's Parish in Greystones and Anne Lodge will serve in Raheny Parish.

+++ C of I condemnation of attacks on Jewish graves -

The Ven. George Davison, Archdeacon of Belfast said, 'The recent vandalism and destruction of graves at the Jewish plot at Belfast City Cemetery is both appalling and disgraceful and I join with others in condemning such an anti-social, racist and sacrilegious act. I also extend my sincere sympathies to those in the Jewish community in Belfast who feel the effects of this heartless attack on this significant and historic site most at this time.'

+++ Annual Belfast Pioneer Mass - The Annual Belfast Pioneer Mass will be celebrated in St. Luke's Church, Twinbrook, Dunmurry, Belfast on Monday 19th September 2016 at 7pm. Light refreshments afterwards. Anyone wishing to receive Gold, Silver, 10 Year, Adult or Young Pioneer emblems/certificates please contact Pat 028 9262 9959, Ian 028 9061 6601, Josephine 028 9061 7116. All Pioneers, family and friends are welcome.

+++ Carlow institution - A new Church of Ireland Rector was instituted in St. Mary's Church in Carlow on Sunday afternoon. Rev. David White succeeds the Rev. Olivia Williams who retired at the end of February this year. David

was instituted by the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory, the Right Reverend Michael Burrows. The service was followed by a reception in the town hall in Haymarket.

+++ Positive response to Kirk at Wedding Fair

- Kirk ministers took the unusual step of promoting the wider benefits of getting married in church at a wedding fair in Fife yesterday.-Rev Mary Ann Rennie and Rev Monika Redman presided over an information stand at the Glen Wedding Show at the Glen Pavilion in Dunfermline to explain to couples why they should consider getting married in a “safe, sacred place”. They said the event, backed by Dunfermline Presbytery, marked the first time the Kirk has taken part in a wedding fair in Fife and illustrated a desire to reach out to people in different environments.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Mary McAleese in dig at Rome over stance on gay priests

Belfast Telegraph

Church of Ireland clergyman Canon Ian Ellis said it was a matter for the Catholic Church, but

added: "There are immense challenges facing those ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/mary-mcaleese-in-dig-at-rome-over-stance-on-gay-priests-35002889.html>

St Patrick's Church in Belfast to lose weekday morning Mass

The parish has said the move will enable funerals to be celebrated "in the morning at a mutually convenient time for priests and bereaved families"

http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/08/29/news/st-patrick-s-to-lose-morning-mass-on-weekdays-670772/?mc_cid=b323ec2ffc&mc_eid=23f2f80c40

Thousands quit Church of Norway in just a few days

Christian Today

www.christiantoday.com/article/thousands.quit.church.of.norway.in.just.a.few.days/93659.htm

'Faith schools: beacons of intellectual rigour' The Daily Telegraph

[http://digitaledition.telegraph.co.uk/editions/
edition_6R1Gx_2016-08-29/data/202860/
index.html?](http://digitaledition.telegraph.co.uk/editions/edition_6R1Gx_2016-08-29/data/202860/index.html?)

Church of England parishes consider first step to break away over sexuality

Telegraph.co.uk

A group of parishes is preparing what could be the first step towards a formal split in the **Church of England** over issues such as homosexuality, with ...

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/28/
church-of-england-parishes-consider-first-step-
to-break-away-ove/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/28/church-of-england-parishes-consider-first-step-to-break-away-ove/)

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