



Churches on the front line of mediation efforts across world, Archbishop Welby tells UN Security Council

Churches are the on the front line of mediation efforts across the world, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby

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told the United Nations Security Council this (Wednesday, 29 August), in part because they are often “the only functioning institutions in a fragile or pre-conflict situation.” He said that churches and other faith communities are “intimately present where there are conflicts; we cannot and will not walk away from them.” He cited the role of South Sudanese Anglican Primate and Archbishop Justin Badi Arama in peace efforts in the country.

Welby repeatedly stressed that mediation must take place within the context of reconciliation. See News Extra on CNI today for full text of address.

Service of Thanksgiving for 850th Anniversary of St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

On Saturday 8th September (the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary) at 3.30pm there will be a Service of Thanksgiving for 850th Anniversary of the foundation of St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.

The service, which will be held in the Cathedral, is the liturgical highlight of this year's celebration which will pay particular attention to the role of the Cathedral within the life of the City of Limerick.

The guest preacher will be the Right Revd David Chillingworth, former Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The Bishop of Limerick, the Most Revd Dr Brendan Leahy, and the Mayor of Limerick, Councillor James Collins, will participate in the service, along with representatives



from various groups within city.

St Mary's which was gifted to the Church by Donal Mor O'Brien, the last King of Thomond, has been a site of Christian worship since 1168 and it one of the oldest buildings in Limerick City. The service forms part of

this year's festivities which are celebrating and promoting the Cathedral within Limerick and beyond.

Speaking of the service, the Dean, the Very Revd Niall J Sloane, says: 'The Cathedral is looking forward to this special event in which we will have an opportunity to give God thanks for 850 years of Christian witness within the City and Diocese of Limerick. I'm delighted that a number of former bishops of Limerick will be joining us for the service along with public and civic representatives. All are welcome to attend.'

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Help with healing process, Pope urges Jesuits

Pope Francis had a private meeting with over 60 Irish Jesuits, including the Irish Provincial Leonard Moloney at the Papal Nunciature in Dublin on 25 August 2018. He greeted them warmly and responded to questions from a number of them.

Fr Moloney began by asking Pope Francis if there was anything the Irish Jesuits could help him with in line with their Fourth Vow – special obedience to the pontiff.

The Pope responded by asking them directly to help to address clerical sexual abuse, with the healing process and with the reparative work that needs to be done.

Brendan McManus SJ, who was the photographer for the meeting, was deeply affected.

“It was an amazing day to be a Jesuit priest in Ireland and to meet the Pope”, he said. “He took time out from his busy schedule to meet briefly with the Irish Jesuits, and I was the Jesuit photographer. It made me sit up and ask myself: how can I help uncover abuse and also reach out to the victims for healing?”

In fact, when Brendan had the opportunity to ask a question, he raised the question of abuse once again. Speaking in Spanish, he asked Pope Francis, “How are you and the Church going to handle this clerical sex abuse



scandal, because the impact which the handling of the abuse is having is killing us?”

The Pope responded by reiterating his commitment to eradicating it entirely. He spoke passionately about the Jesuits helping him in the work of addressing clerical sex abuse and clearly spelled out the dangers of abuse of power.

John Callanan SJ asked how the Pope managed to keep his serenity. He replied that keeping a sense of humour is very important, and alluded to former Superior General of the Jesuits Fr Peter Hans Kolvenbach as an example of someone who was well known for his jovial and optimistic spirits.

Other questions came from Michael Bingham and from Michael O’Sullivan. And when the Pope spoke emphatically about avoiding sterility and attracting new vocations, novice Matthew Tumulty got a special mention.

More broadly, according to Brendan, the Pope urged the Jesuits “to be faithful in prayer and to ‘keep ourselves in consolation’, a Jesuit phrase meaning to be connected to the Spirit and to be compassion in the world”.

Reflecting on the whole experience, Brendan said: “On a personal level, it was overwhelming to be with the Pope; it was very emotional and heart-warming.”

Jesuit Scholastic Niall Leahy also gave his overall impression of the meeting. “Given the circumstances of his visit, our meeting with the Holy Father inevitably made us painfully aware of some of the dark realities within the life of the church. But we were also consoled to witness how a mere man can courageously face these realities and carry the cross. For me this was a paschal moment.”

Bell ringing and hospitality in Dublin C of I church marked the Pope's visit

St Thomas's Church on Cathal Brugha Street was opened to the public for free coffee and viewing on Saturday last (August 25), as huge crowds gathered around the church to welcome Pope Francis during his visit to Dublin.

The resident groups of the church, St Thomas's Indian Orthodox Church, St George's Brass Band and Discovery Gospel Choir also displayed a banner outside and rang its bells welcoming the Pope on behalf of the church.



Crowds gathered outside St Thomas's Church to await Pope Francis, including members of the groups who use the church.

While many significant visits have passed St Thomas's through the years on its O'Connell Street side, this was the first such visit in its long history, that passed by from the back of Cathal Brugha Street.

Significantly the Pope mobile trip through Dublin began at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Sean McDermott Street, an area which has witnessed much of the modern ravages of drug addiction and gang violence.

The Pope passed St Thomas's twice; firstly on his way to the Pro Cathedral on Marlborough Street and secondly from the Pro Cathedral back out onto O'Connell Street.

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The previous Papal visit to Ireland occurred in 1979, during the height of the Troubles. The bell ringing was therefore greeted by many members of the public, the local Gardaí and the leadership of the Pro Cathedral extremely positively.

Jewish leaders condemn Corbyn over ‘racist trope’

Jeremy Corbyn must apologise for repeating a “classic racist trope”, Jewish leaders have said, as they warned that “no Jew can be an equal member of the Labour Party”.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews yesterday urged the party leader to act to end the party’s row over anti-Semitism, with the group accusing Labour’s leadership of having “chosen to make its priority a fight with British Jews”.

The Jewish Leadership Council and Community Security Trust said Mr Corbyn needed to publicly acknowledge and apologise for the “hurt” he had caused the Jewish community.

The warnings came days before Labour’s ruling National Executive Committee is due to vote to accept in full an internationally recognised definition of anti-Semitism, amid fears the party could seek to water it down.

Mr Corbyn said in 2013 that British Zionists “don’t understand British irony”. Gillian Merron, chief executive of the Board of Deputies, told Labour Party General Secretary Jennie Formby in a letter that the comments appeared to

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imply that Zionists were “somehow ‘un-British’”, which was “a classic racist trope”.

The former chief rabbi, Lord Sacks, has described the comments as the worst by a political leader since Enoch Powell’s “rivers of blood” speech.

The Jewish Leadership Council said in its own letter to Ms Formby that the “current obsessive hatred of Israel and Zionism means that no Jew can be an equal member of the Labour Party”.

A spokesman for Mr Corbyn claimed that he had been referring in 2013 to a “group of pro-Israel activists”, had not been singling out Jews, and was “opposed to all forms of anti-Semitism”.

Pope laments abuse in first Vatican appearance since Ireland trip

Pope Francis has lamented how Irish church authorities failed to respond to the crimes of sexual abuse, speaking during his first public appearance at the Vatican after accusations that he himself covered up for a former US cardinal.

Francis presided over his weekly general audience in St Peter's Square and spoke about his weekend trip to Ireland, where the abuse scandal has devastated the Catholic Church's credibility.

The final day of the trip was overshadowed by release of a document from a retired Holy See diplomat accusing Vatican authorities, including Francis, of covering up for ex-

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Cardinal Theodore McCarrick - despite knowing for years that he regularly slept with religious scholars.

The author of the document - retired Vatican ambassador to the US Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano - said Francis should resign for his complicity in the McCarrick scandal, which has implicated US and Vatican church leaders over a period of two decades.

Francis referred to the Irish culture of cover-up, but he omitted from his remarks a line in his prepared text noting how he had prayed in Ireland for the Virgin Mary to intervene to give the church strength to "firmly pursue truth and justice" to help victims heal.

US bishops have called for an independent investigation to find out who knew about McCarrick's abuse and when, and how he was able to rise through the ranks even though it was an open secret that he regularly invited seminarians to his New Jersey beach house and into his bed.

Francis last month removed McCarrick as a cardinal and ordered him to live a lifetime of penance and prayer after a US church investigation determined that an allegation he groped a teenage altar boy in the 1970s was credible.

Mr Vigano's 11-page letter alleges that Francis knew of McCarrick's attitude to seminarians starting in 2013, but rehabilitated him from sanctions that Pope Benedict XVI had allegedly imposed on him in 2009 or 2010.

There is ample evidence, however, that the Vatican under Benedict and St John Paul II also covered up the

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information, and that any reported sanctions Benedict imposed were never enforced since McCarrick travelled widely for the church during those years, including to Rome to meet with Benedict and celebrate Mass with other US bishops at the tomb of St Peter.

Head of Church Mission Society to be new Bishop of Truro

The next Bishop of Truro has been announced as Rev Philip Mounstephen, currently head of Church Mission Society.

He was previously chaplain of St Michael's Church, Paris, and before that worked for the Church Pastoral Aid Society in a number of roles, serving as deputy general director from 2004 to 2007. Now aged 59, he was ordained in 1988.

He said of his appointment: 'I am absolutely delighted to have been called to lead the Diocese of Truro in mission and ministry. With my family roots in Cornwall I am very well aware of what a rich Christian heritage we have. I rejoice in Cornwall's strong sense of identity and I look forward under God into leading us in what I hope and pray will be a fruitful and exciting future.'

CMS's chair of trustees, Charles Clayton, said: 'The trustees and staff of Church Mission Society are thrilled to know that Philip has been chosen to be the next bishop of Truro, even though we will miss him dearly at CMS. Philip has contributed enormously to the success of the organisation, leading it expertly and in the process serving the whole church in its mission. He will leave with our love and

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**Rev Canon
Philip
Mounstephen
has family roots
in Cornwall**

appreciation for
his dedicated
service and
godly ministry.'



The
appointment was welcomed by the Bishop of St Germans,
Rt Rev Dr Chris Goldsmith, who has been acting Bishop of
Truro since the departure of Bishop Tim Thornton. He said: 'I
am delighted to welcome Philip on behalf of the Diocese of
Truro. He clearly brings a great deal of energy and
expertise, both in terms of his experience of parish and
chaplaincy ministry and as somebody who has been a
successful leader of a large and complex mission agency.'

Mounstephen will begin his role early in 2019 following his
consecration as bishop on November 30, 2018.

News briefs

+++Larne rector instituted - Last evening The Rev David
Lockhart was instituted as rector of the Grouped Parishes
of Larne and Inver with Glynn and Raloo at a service in St
Cedma's, Larne.

David, who was previously rector of Cloughfern Parish for
15 years, succeeds the Very Rev Stephen Forde who is now
Dean of Belfast.

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David is married to Beverley and they have three teenage children, Naomi, Jonathan and Hannah. "I am looking forward to new surroundings and to getting to know people in Larne and Inver and Glynn and Raloo," he said.

David grew up in Shankill Parish, Lurgan, where his father Very Rev Norman Lockhart, Dean of Dromore, was rector. He studied at Queen's University in Belfast, graduating with a BSc in Chemistry, and it was during his student days when he was very involved in the Church of Ireland Centre at Queen's that he felt a calling to ministry.

After graduating David went to Dublin to study theology. He was ordained 25 years last June. Following a curacy in St Mary's, Crumlin Road, Belfast, he spent several years as rector of St Stephen's and St Luke's in Belfast before his move to Cloughfern. He was North Belfast Rural Dean for five years.

David was instituted rector of the Grouped Parishes by the Ven George Davison, Archdeacon of Belfast, Commissary to the Bishop of Connor. The preacher was the Rev William Henry, Maze Presbyterian Church.

+++Caincastle introduction this Sunday - The Rev Philip Benson will be introduced as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Kilwaughter and Cairncastle with All Saints at a service in All Saints' Parish Church, Larne, on Sunday September 2.

The service, which begins at 3.30pm, will be led by the Rural Dean, the Rev Canon Mark Taylor and the Ven Paul Dundas, Archdeacon of Dalriada. The preacher is the Very Rev Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast and former rector of Larne and Inver with Glynn and Raloo, where Philip has been curate since 2015.

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Philip was ordained a deacon in September 2014 and served his internship in the Grouped Parishes of Finaghy and Upper Malone. He became curate in Larne



and Inver with Glynn and Raloo following his ordination as a priest in September 2015.

Philip is from Bangor and grew up attending Carnalea Methodist Church, where he was a member of the BB, attended the YF and later became a leader. He went to school at RBAI and studied Theology at Queen's University, Belfast.

After graduating Philip worked for Goldsmiths Jewellers while completing a Theology Master's Degree part-time. In 2009 he began working as a youth worker full time, and also helped to lead the youth group at St Gall's Carnalea. Around this time Philip began to explore his vocation and he was accepted for training in 2012.

His interests include football, movies, music and history. He is currently chair of the Connor Youth Council

+++Get your scissors ready - Christ Church Dublin reminded: Adrienne Geoghegan's Collage Workshop is

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almost here. This workshop is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the artistry and history of the tiles, while exercising your own creativity... <https://www.facebook.com/cccdub/posts/10156533577593490> ...

+++Fundraising post in Armagh - The Armagh Robinson Library wishes to receive expressions of interest from individuals and companies who wish to apply for the post of **#fundraising** manager. Further information at: <http://armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk/wp/expressions-of-interes>

+++ NICVA - The Fundraising Regulator is undertaking a review of its **Code of Fundraising Practice** to ensure it is as accessible as possible. NICVA are hosting an event to provide an opportunity for organisations of all sizes to feed into the consultation. <http://ow.ly/fB4S30lrx46>

