



*The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon with Archbishop Michael Jackson*

## **Provincial Secretaries of the Anglican Communion meet in Dublin**

The Provincial Secretaries of the Anglican Communion met in Dublin last weekend for their eighth periodic meeting. The conference got underway on Friday morning in the Emmaus Centre in Swords. Its theme is Peace and Reconciliation.

In attendance is the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon. The Archbishop of Dublin led a Bible study on the theme of Peace and Reconciliation on Friday morning and the Archbishop of Armagh will give a talk this evening. The Archbishop of Canterbury will address the Provincial Secretaries on Tuesday morning.

The Provincial Secretaries have travelled from across the globe to represent their provinces at the meeting. In all there are 38 autonomous national and regional Churches plus six extra provincial Churches and dioceses that make up the Anglican Communion.

For his Bible study, Archbishop Michael Jackson took as his text Ephesians 6.10–20. This was the reading from the Christian Scriptures for this year's National Day of Commemoration Ceremony in the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham. The act of worship at the ceremony involves

three World Faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam and the occasion is attended by veterans of the Irish Defence Forces and the British Legion as well as the President, the Taoiseach, Government Ministers, ambassadors and citizens and other visitors.

The Archbishop referred to verses 13 and 14: *Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then ...*

“Often we think of reconciliation somewhat romantically as breaking down the dividing walls of enmity, and this is good, but there are other considerations and to my mind this passage introduces us to the idea of *standing* as a significant part of reconciliation. Standing is a witness in itself and in the world of today we see every day those who stand and witness and die for their principles and for their faith,” he stated.

## **Catholic preacher at Dublin rector's institution**

The parishes of Crumlin and Chapelizod embarked on a new phase of their journey on Friday evening last (August 28) with the arrival of [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

their new Rector. The Revd Ruth Noble was instituted by Archbishop Michael Jackson in St Mary's Church, Crumlin.

Welcoming the congregation, Archbishop Jackson said that the parishes of Crumlin and Chapelizod occupied a special position in the life of the diocesan family. He thanked parishioners for their preparations for the evening and welcomed Ruth and her family.

The sermon was preached by Fr Mícheál Murphy, PP Mountmellick, who noted that agreeing to preach at the service had seemed like a good idea until he saw the readings and realised he was up against the Sermon on the Mount [Matthew 5: 1–16] and that the first reading [James 1: 17–27] summed up Ruth in that she is a doer of the word rather than merely a hearer who deceives herself.

Fr Mícheál said that the institution of a new Rector opened up a new chapter in the history of the parish and promised the parishioners of Crumlin and Chapelizod that their new Rector would be inspiring, creative and enthusiastic. In Mountmellick, he said, Ruth had immersed herself in witness to the Gospel and added that her ministry had been one of joy, friendship and smiles. They had shared ministries in many areas



and had been uniquely honoured to light Mountmellick's famous Christmas tree together each year. He thanked Ruth and the Church of Ireland community for their friendship.

“Ministry today, ordained and non–ordained, continues to call us to that great Sermon on the Mount,” Fr Mícheál said.

“The call and challenge invites us to reflection and conversation. As part of the rite of institution the parishioners will be reminded that you have

been called to the witness of Christ and to serve others in the name of Christ... Will you be the salt of the earth and a light to the world? Are you a doer of the Word and not just a hearer?" he asked.

Speaking after the service, Monsignor John Deasy of St Agnes' Parish in Crumlin welcomed Ruth and Alan to the village which he said had always been a special place in the lives of the local priests. He noted that both St Agnes' and St Mary's churches were built in the 1930s which he said was a great achievement for both denominations at the time.

Speaking on behalf of the parishioners in the Mountmellick group of parishes, Wilf Deverell described Ruth as a person with many gifts but he said her outstanding talent was a gift for prayer. He wished both Ruth and her husband Alan many years of happiness and told parishioners that they were getting a beautiful Rector.

On behalf of Crumlin and Chapelizod Church Warden in St Mary's, Lavinia Heasley, said the people of both parishes were looking forward to working with Ruth and exploring mission and vision in both parishes. She paid special tribute to everyone who had helped out while their

parishes were vacant and the choirs of St Laurence's and Mountmellick for joining the choir of St Mary's for the service. She also thanked the parish of St Agnes' for their hospitality in allowing them to use their parish centre for refreshments after the service.

Archbishop Jackson said it was a great pleasure to welcome Ruth to the dioceses and said she brought with her a sense of discipleship and humanity. He thanked everyone for the huge effort they had put into preparing for the evening.

## **Friars walk to Dublin in bid to save church**

Three friars from the Dominican Order are on a 57km walk from Drogheda to the residence of the Prior Provincial in Tallaght in a bid to retain their church.

Irish Examiner on Saturday past - Along with supporters, they set out on the road to the Order's priory in Dublin at 7am today.

The walk is part of a campaign to maintain an 800-year tradition of having a Dominican church and priory in Drogheda.



***Sacristan Declan Hanratty who last year went on hunger strike in an effort to have the decision reversed.***

Last year, the order announced a withdrawal from a number of centres due to the fall in the number of friars.

Fr Bernard Tracey, spokesperson for the order said yesterday the decision to withdraw from Drogheda had not changed and consultation with stakeholders was continuing.

“Thirty years ago, we had 400 friars in 16 centres; now we have 150 in 19 centres and we cannot continue to serve in all centres,” said Fr Tracey.



“Our numbers are stark but how we implement the decision is open to consultation.

“Consultations are taking place concerning each house where the decision was made to withdraw. Members of the provincial council have been appointed to convene and chair the consultations in each area. The consultations involve representatives of people attending each church as well as representatives of the parish and of the diocese.”

However, Rita Hanratty, spokesperson for the Save the Dominican Church campaign in Drogheda, said there are alternatives.

“We have made a number of proposals to the Dominicans including one that other priests who want to minister here are allowed to do that.

“We also proposed that the house (priory) be turned into a semi-retirement home for the priests.”

She said this could be done without any cost to the order. “Next year, six priests are being ordained into the Dominican order and four of them are due to be sent on for further studies. I think that is ridiculous and we would ask that instead they are allocated to churches including Drogheda.”

Her husband Declan Hanratty is the sacristan at the church. He went on hunger strike last year in an effort to have the decision reversed.

Between 20 and 30 people were expected to take part in the start of the walk while buses will bring supporters to the Tallaght house for 5pm for the handing over of 22,000 signatures gathered in support of keeping the order in Drogheda.

## **Cregagh churches create colourful mural at local flats**

As part of a series of summer events for kids of all ages from the Cregagh estate, three local churches have worked together to create a colourful mural on the side of Kilbroney flats.

Local teens made suggestions for what should be included and the final design was produced by Rachel Irish, a local resident and one of the latest batch of trainee [Diocesan Evangelists](#).

Commenting on the design Rachel said, “The block of flats is in the centre of the mural because it stands at the centre of the entrance to the Cregagh estate. We also picked up on the name of Kilbroney, meaning, ‘at the foot of the



mountain a river that runs through the heart of the village’.

The top of the flats is painted like a lighthouse symbolizing that it may be a beacon of light in the darkness.”

The leader of the project, Angela Megarry, (Assistant Pastor at Mount Merrion Parish Church), said, “Our biggest challenge has been the inclement weather but it has been amazing to see the support we have had from the local kids, residents of the flats, Belfast City Council and the Housing Executive. It was also

marvelous to see Knockbreda Methodist, St Jude's Parish and the Mount Merrion crew work together during a summer of outreach to the Cregagh estate and we had many great conversations with passers-by."

Angela went on to say that the caretaker of Kilbroney flats loved it so much that he now wants the team to paint a mural on the other side of the building!

## **Writing Workshop with Maureen Ryan**

The Church's ministry of Healing is hosting a writing workshop at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Braemor Park, Dublin 14 on 3rd October 2015 from 10.15am-4.30pm

The Very Rev Maureen Ryan is a priest, writer, psychologist, and experienced workshop leader. The workshop will explore writing as a spiritual discipline that helps us celebrate the sacred ordinary, promoting healing and growth especially in times of loss, illness and distress. During the workshop, we will experience the power of writing together in silence, and suggestions with exercises will be



provided for establishing the practice subsequently at home.

The day will begin at 10.15am at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and conclude by 4.30pm. Admission for the day-long event is €40, which includes lunch, coffee & tea, and free parking. The numbers are limited, so booking is essential. Please email [hello@ministryofhealing.ie](mailto:hello@ministryofhealing.ie) to secure your place.

## **Survey indicates 1.5 million Scots identify with Church**

The latest Scottish Annual Household Survey has suggested 27.8% of Scots feel they belong



to the Church of Scotland, a drop of 0.6% on the previous year. The figures, drawn from a sample of 9,800 people, also indicate 47% of Scots now consider themselves as having no religion at all.

Is it all bad news? No. While the number identifying with the Church has dropped significantly over the last 6 years, the rate of decline appears to be slowing. If the data is correct, it indicates almost 1,500,000 people state an affinity to our Church.

Responding to the results, Rev Colin Sinclair, who is convener of the Mission and Discipleship Council said, “These latest figures represent the challenges facing many established organisations in Scotland, not least the churches. Fewer Scots are identifying with the Church, even at a time the Church of Scotland is helping provide care and support for increasing

numbers of people across the country, of all faiths and none. We are encouraged that so many Scots still consider themselves part of the Church. This is still a large part of the population, living out their faith in every part of Scotland, which represents a pretty potent force for good.”

When the Scottish Household Survey began asking people to declare their religious affiliation in 2009, 35% of people identified with the Church of Scotland. The pace of social change has seen the number drop significantly, and while the trend of decline is slowing it is too early to tell whether this figure has bottomed out. In the latest figures, as well as the 27.8% identifying with the Church, 14.4% described themselves as Roman Catholic, 7.7% as belonging to other Christian denominations, and 1.4% indicated they were Muslim. The number stating they have no religion has increased from 40% to 47% over the last 6 years.

Mr Sinclair, who is minister at Edinburgh's Palmerston Place church, says the increasing number of Scots feeling they have no religious connection presents a challenge but also an opportunity. "We used to think mission started at the far end of the Mediterranean, but we are increasingly realising mission is right on our doorstep and that is an exciting and inspiring

thought. So many people who engage with our the projects and services in their local communities do not know they are part of the Church's work and we need to raise awareness of our presence."

Giving his response to the survey, the Principal Clerk, Very Rev John Chalmers, says the mission of the Church is about more than numbers and it can take heart from the demonstrable difference it continues to make in Scottish society.

"The Church of Scotland continues to serve those in need, regardless of whether or not they are recorded as members. We have always been and always will be a Church which prays for those who do not pray themselves and which keeps the faith alive for those times when individuals and the nation needs it. Our Church represents the best interpretation of what Jesus meant when he called his people to be the salt of the earth and the yeast in the dough – these are examples of small of things that make a big difference and while we do have plans to grow our membership we continue to believe that our current membership makes an incalculable difference to the well-being of our common life."



## Catholic canon's funeral Mass to be celebrated in Anglican church



***Canon Brian O'Sullivan, of Arundel and Brighton Diocese will have his funeral Mass in an Anglican church.***

Canon Brian O'Sullivan, who died on Friday August 21st, will have his funeral Mass at his nearby Anglican church to recognise the work he did to bring the Christian community together.

The funeral Mass will be held at the parish of St Andrew and St Cuthman, in Steyning, while a

Vigil Mass will be held at the Catholic Church of Christ the King.

The move, while unusual, has been approved by the Anglican Bishop of Chichester, the Rt Rev Dr Martin Warner, in recognition of Canon O'Sullivan's "commitment to life in Christian unity."

Canon O'Sullivan was a priest for Arundel and Brighton Diocese.

The funeral Mass will held on Tuesday, September 8th at midday. The Vigil Mass will be held the day before at 7pm at Christ the King, also in Steyning.

## **Majority of US Catholics favour same-sex union; Pope Francis urged to clarify stance**

A new study has revealed that majority of American Catholics are okay with same-sex marriage and believe that Pope Francis supports such a relationship as well.

The study was conducted and released this month by the **Public Religion Research Institute**, an American non-profit, non-partisa



organisation dedicated to research and education.

One in five Americans are Catholics, the study showed, with 59 percent of them categorised as white non-Hispanic, while 34 percent are identified as Hispanic.

When the Catholic respondents were asked whether gay and lesbian couples should have the legal right to marry, 60 percent of them said yes, whereas 55 percent of Americans in general have the same opinion.

In the same vein, 51 percent of Catholics said abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 53 percent of the general population said the same thing.

According to the **Christian Post**, the Catholics' apparent acceptance of homosexuality and same-sex marriage is in stark contrast to the official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, which stresses that marriage should only be a union between a man and a woman. Officially, the Catholic church also stands strongly against abortion.

American Catholics maintained a favourable view of Pope Francis. However, many seemed to be confused with regards to his stance on gay marriage. Around 49 percent of Catholics who favour gay marriage believe the pontiff is supportive of the practice, while 15 percent of those opposed to same-sex marriage believe the same thing.

A **petition** has been launched by the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) asking the Vatican to clear up the "widespread confusion" in society with regards to the Roman Catholic stance on issues such as gay marriage and divorce.

The petition has received more than half a million signatures already, including those of five cardinals.

"College students from coast to coast are asking Pope Francis to reaffirm Church teaching at the Synod," said John Ritchie, director of TFP Student Action.

"After Ireland and the US Supreme Court both approved same-sex 'marriage,' a strong reaffirmation of Church teaching could save the sacred institution of marriage, strengthen the family and dispel the lies of the homosexual revolution," Ritchie said in a statement. "Young Catholics—even non-Catholics—look to the Church as a beacon of morality and stability in our Godless culture, but some of our shepherds have issued confusing statements."

## Media digest

### **Church of England**

CofE Pensions Board issues £100million of bonds to fund clergy retirement housing  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/08/the-church-of-england-pensions-board-issues-£100-million-of-bonds-to-fund-clergy-retirement-housing.aspx>

Join the Pilgrimage2Paris short film competition to join the CofE on its environmental journey  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/08/join-the-pilgrimage2paris-short-film-competition-to-join-the-church-of-england-on-its-environmental-journey.aspx>

## **Mail**

Portrait on the Queen looking back over her reign includes comment by the late Hugh Montefiore, Bishop of Birmingham, about how her role as monarch took precedence over mothering.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3213954/The-Queen-friends-know-never-seen-look-private-life-Britain-s-beloved-monarch-told-closest-companions.html#ixzz3kBULVyJN>

## **ITV/Mirror/Mail/Exp/Times**

Article about the former Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Keir Starmer, who says the law should be changed to allow assisted dying. Reports quotes the Church of England as saying: "We believe that legalising assisted suicide would have serious consequences for the most vulnerable in our society."

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/601600/Sir-Keir-Starmer-Assisted-Dying-Bill-Church-of-England-Labour-Dignitas-Switzerland>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3214919/Ease-law-end-injustice-assisted-dying-urges-ex-DPP-Sir-Keir-Starmer-says-rules-changed-wishing-die-not-traipse-Switzerland.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/law-assisted-dying-must-change-6342096>

<http://www.itv.com/news/2015-08-29/former-director-of-public-prosecutions-calls-for-change-in-law-to-allow-assisted-dying/>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4541770.ece>

## **Mail/Tel/Ind**

Reports that the first person to overcome Ebola in Sierra Leone, Victoria Yillia, has given birth to a baby boy. She is quoted saying the birth gave her hope after she lost 21 members of her family to the disease. She is pictured in church during a service in Kenema, on the outskirts of Freetown.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3214664/Sierra-Leone-s-Ebola-survivor-gives-birth-baby-boy.html#ixzz3kBV9OgPz>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/sierra-leones-first-ebola-survivor-gives-birth-to-healthy-baby-boy-10476887.html>

## **FT**

Article about bus trips being organised to the village of Imber - cut off on MOD land on Salisbury Plain since the war. It also mentions visits to the village's Grade I listed parish church of St Giles' which is open a few days each year. It says the church is under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) and quotes a volunteer, Neil Skelton, who looks after the building.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4d107f7e-4b0e-11e5-9b5d-89a026fda5c9.html#slide0>

## **BBC**

Report that archaeologists are hoping to uncover the location of an Anglo-Saxon wall around Peterborough Cathedral. It says the wall surrounded the 10th Century abbey that burned down in 1116, before the cathedral was built by the Normans. Cathedral archaeologist Jackie Hill said the aim was to learn more about the Anglo-Saxon monastery because "we don't know enough about that". It states it is more than 30 years since a dig discovered a small area of wall.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-34085916>

## **Mirror & Ind**



Articles on reform of the House of Lords. *Independent* columnist calls for ethical and spiritual members to be more representative of the population and not just the Church of England. Mirror reports on its campaign, supported by 10,000 signatures, calling for the House of Lords to be abolished and replaced with an elected body.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/ten-thousand-readers-back-campaign-6339518>

### **Times**

Article about remembering those who have lost their lives in the Merchant Navy through marking Merchant Navy Day on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. It states the Merchant Navy's red ensign will fly from Tower Bridge and Liverpool's Royal Liver building, and St Dunstan and All Saints church in Stepney. The church has flown the ensign every day since 1620 when it was the Royal Navy's principal ensign.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/life/courtsocial/article4541561.ece>

### **Times**

Article about the forthcoming Roman Catholic Synod on the family, which will be held this October. It says it expects controversy and that Pope Francis has a reputation for making waves.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4541505.ece>

## **Mail**

Report that a US Army chaplain, who served in Afghanistan, has won a national prize to preach at special service at St. Paul's Chapel, near Ground Zero on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Rev. David Peters, of Austin, Texas, will give his winning sermon on texts from Isaiah and Matthew which call for peace and reconciliation.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3214477/Army-chaplain-wins-prize-9-11-sermon-ground-zero.html#ixzz3kBZPYeCk>