

## Interfaith concern for Dublin Islamic Communities

**Dublin City Interfaith Forum (DCIF) and Archbishop Jackson have expressed deep concern at the recent circulation of a hate letter to schools and mosques in Dublin.**

The organisation, which comprises a number of Dublin faith communities including the Church of Ireland, said the ugly and semiliterate letter constituted an offence to all citizens of Ireland and especially to our Muslim brothers and sisters. "It is a deliberate attempt by a tiny, hate fuelled and totally unrepresentative group of people to promote a breakdown in social solidarity and community cooperation," a DCIF spokesperson said.

In a message of support to the Islamic Community, the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson said: "I should like to express solidarity with members of the Islamic Community in Ireland and further afield at a time when too much hatred is being voiced against them. Good relations make for stable society and such stability is based on giving the same level of respect we should like to receive – and a bit more. Yesterday's stranger is today's neighbour and we do not want to treat today's neighbour as tomorrow's enemy. I appeal for courtesy and cordiality in all our

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relationships and most of all for understanding and dignity."



***Salisbury Cathedral - choir processes around the font.***

DCIF states that Dublin City is a place of diversity, a place where many religions, cultures and people meet, interact and enrich society. "Dubliners like to take pride in believing that we live in a friendly, neighbourly city. If we are to be or become a society where the stranger is truly welcome them we are all obliged to learn how to meet, promote and learn from the wonderful diversity in religion, culture and



*A reflective moment around the font of Salisbury Cathedral where a service was hosted to mark the return of 2 Mechanised Brigade from Afghanistan*

lifestyle that is the rich inheritance of our city. We would further suggest that we need to learn to stand up to and utterly reject the threatening, violent and pernicious voices in our society who are determined, for their own self-serving reasons, to create a society which would refuse to acknowledge that a multitude of choices exist," the spokesperson said.

## **Belfast Civic Carol Service at St George's**

**The Annual Civic Carol Service will take place in St. George's Church, Belfast on 15 December 2013 at 5.00pm. Bishop Alan Abernethy will give a blessing in**

## **Irish and the Lord Mayor, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir will read a lesson.**

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise, the Irish language body of the Church of Ireland and also known as the Irish Guild of the Church, is supporting this service and will be launching their bilingual services book, Holy Communion and Other Services of the Church of Ireland, after the service.

Dáithí Ó Maolchoille, Chair of the Irish Guild of the Church said:

"The Parish of St. George should be rightly proud of its tremendous efforts to promote greater use of the Irish language in their services. It had its first service in Irish on St. Patrick's Day in 2011 but now there are regular monthly services in Irish and beginners' Irish classes that have proved very popular. Its pioneering work is being noted by parishes that are hoping to emulate this positive work."



The translation of the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was carried out by Liam Andrews and there will also be representatives from the Irish language sector reading at the service.

There is a warm welcome to everyone to join this service on 15 December 2013 and refreshments will be available afterwards.

## Hindus welcome appointment of woman bishop

**Hindus have welcomed the appointment of a woman bishop by the Church of Ireland.**

Meath Chronicle - Bishop Pat Storey was enthroned as Bishop of Meath and Kildare in a ceremony in Trim on Friday past.

Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement issued in Nevada, USA, called it a historic achievement and "a step in the right direction".

Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, also urged Vatican to follow and consider favorably the ordination of women priests in Roman Catholic Church. Holy See being the largest religious organisation in the world should show exemplary leadership in women equality to the rest of the planet, Zed pointed out.

Rajan Zed noted that Church of England, in which women reportedly made up about a third of the Church's priests and which is recognised by law as the official church of England with Her Majesty the Queen as the Supreme Governor, also needed to permit appointment of women bishops. Anglican

churches in Scotland and Wales, which reportedly had the power to appoint women bishops, should look into installing some.

Zed stressed that women could disseminate God's message as skillfully as men and deserved equal and full participation and access in religion. Quoting Hindu scriptures, Rajan Zed says: Where women are honored, there the gods are pleased. Men and women are



***Bishop Storey with her husband, Earl, and the rector of Navan, John Clarke, at the enthronement ceremony in Trim.***

equal in the eyes of God and religions should respect that, Zed argues and adds

that time has now come for the women priests and bishops.

Zed further said that as women were equal partners in the society, so they should be equal partners in the religion also. He urged Vatican to be more kind to Roman Catholic women as exclusion of women from religious services, just because they were female, was very unfair and ungodly.

Rajan Zed suggested that theologians and canonists of the Catholic Church needed to address women ordination issue urgently; re-evaluate Church doctrine, theology, male hierarchy and history; and give women a chance. Women should be ordained to priesthood and should perform the same functions as male priests. Treating women as not equal to men was clearly a case of discrimination promoting gender inequality.

It was highly appropriate time for the Holy See to hold a referendum among its congregations worldwide to learn about the feelings of Catholics on the subject of ordination of women, Zed stated.

Roman Catholic Church's Canon Law 1024 says—Only a baptized man validly receives sacred ordination.

- See: <http://www.meathchronicle.ie/news/roundup/articles/2013/12/10/4018708-hindus-welcome-appointment-of-woman-bishop/#sthash.N3ej35Db.dpuf>

## Bicentenary celebrations

**St Saviour's Parish Church, Connor, is celebrating its bicentenary. The present church was consecrated in 1813 but the site is much older, dating back to the 4th Century when it was a monastic site.**

To mark the occasion the parish organised a number of events. These included a Scottish Ceilidh night with the Seven Towers Ceilidh Band early in September; a

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historical talk by Mr Roland Spottiswoode, well-known local historian and researcher; and a Stew Night in the parish hall with entertainment by Mr Matthew Warwick.

During that evening a Bicentenary cake was cut by the Rev Ian Magowan, rector of St Saviour's, and the Rev Sam Jones, a previous rector.



To conclude the celebrations a special Service of Thanksgiving was held on Sunday October 6 at 7pm, led by the

rector. The guest speaker was the Rt Rev Alan Harper OBE, former Bishop of Connor and Archbishop of Armagh. This was well attended by local dignitaries including Mrs Joan Christie, Lord Lieutenant of County Antrim and her Deputy, Mr Stephen Montgomery and the Lord Mayor of Ballymena; clergy, friends and members of the congregation.

Lessons were read by the Rev Terry Scott and the Rev Sam Jones, former rectors of the parish. Special music was provided by the church choir and a duet was sung by Lee Redmond and Grace Magowan. The organist was Mrs Emma Colgan who trained the choir.

After the service everyone had supper in the church hall. The rector and Vestry would like to thank all those who helped with the celebrations in any way making the events so memorable.

## 21st celebrations at Woodburn

**Holy Trinity Woodburn celebrated its 21st Birthday on Sunday December 8.**

The church was planted in December



***The families who were sent by St Nicholas' in December 1992 to plant Holy Trinity.***

1992 by St Nicholas, Carrickfergus, and since then the congregation of 20 people has grown to over 200 who regularly attend on a Sunday morning.

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In 2004 a larger building had to be constructed to accommodate the growth in the youth organisations and Sunday worship. Each week around 600 young people pass through the door of Holy Trinity through the various youth organisations.

Santa also paid a visit to the 21st Birthday celebrations to receive rather than present gifts. The gifts were brought in by boys and girls and Santa will deliver these to the C of I Board of Social Responsibility where they will be distributed to other children across Northern Ireland.

## Outreach in Galway

**Crosslinks is looking for team members for an outreach in Galway next year.**

Gospel4Galway will take place from Thursday 13 until Monday 17 March 2014. The team will be made up of 2 strands – one will be involved in gospel outreach to the local Irish

population and the other in taking the gospel to Muslims now living in Galway. The St Patrick's weekend is an ideal time to go down and interact with those who are coming to Galway to celebrate. In addition Crosslinks wants to build some relationships in the Muslim community and





look for opportunities to share the Christian faith with them.  
If you're interested and would like more information, please email:  
Peter Blair: [pblair@crosslinks.org](mailto:pblair@crosslinks.org)  
Johanne Martin: [jmartin@crosslinks.org](mailto:jmartin@crosslinks.org)

## Children's choir robes needed

**Belfast Cathedral would like to hear from any parishes who have children's choir robes which are no longer in use.**

We are urgently looking for red cassocks and surplices of various sizes for the boys choirs from early December onwards. We are happy to collect the robes and to hear from parishes who wish to donate the robes or to loan them to the cathedral on a long term basis.

Please contact Paul Gilmore  
[paul@belfastcathedral.org](mailto:paul@belfastcathedral.org) or  
07858426506.

## Appointments

**The appointment has been announced of the Reverend Canon Gerald Field as Dean of Cashel and Incumbent of Cashel Union.**

He has been rector of Tullamore in the diocese of Meath and Kildare for the last 12 years and serves the wider church particularly as secretary to the Liturgical Advisory Committee.



He will be instituted in Cashel Cathedral on 23rd February 2014 at 7 p.m. The Revd Canon Gerald Field was born in Birmingham and spent most of his formative years, education and ministry following ordination in the north west of England.

He trained for ministry at King's College, London and the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. He was ordained in 1977, serving in Blackburn, Manchester and Carlisle dioceses before moving to the Church of Ireland in 2001 to the Tullamore Union of Parishes in Meath & Kildare Dioceses.

He is married to Lucy and has four adult sons.

His interests include music, playing guitar, reading, cooking and sport (more of an armchair enthusiast now, and one of the few/only Derby County supporters in Ireland!



Following the position of diocesan representative canon in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin vacated by the retirement of the Very Revd Dr Philip Knowles.

The election of the

Prebendary of Stagonil took place at the Cashel, Ferns and Ossory Diocesan Synod. **The Revd Canon Patrick Harvey**, rector of Abbeylaxey and Killermogh was elected, one of the few dioceses where the St Patrick's canon is elected by the full diocesan synod.

It is of interest that Patrick's grandfather, Bishop Arnold Harvey, was a former dean of St Patrick's! Canon Patrick Harvey has given much distinguished service to the Church of Ireland including being a member of Standing Committee and also member of the Chapter of St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny.



**The Revd Arthur Minion** has been appointed to the Prebendary of Kilrane and Taghmon.

### **Carols by Candlelight ~ Dunmanway.**

Fanlobbus Union, Carols by Candlelight with St Nicholas' Brass Band. Sunday Evening 15th December in St Mary's Church, Dunmanway. For more details: Maisie Culbert on 023 8845177. All are welcome

### **The Big Festive Fry for Charlene's Project**

on Saturday 14 December from 7.30 am – noon at St Saviour's Halls in Dollingstown. Bring your family and friends and come early or come late. You will be so so welcome and will leave the really well fed, excited about Christmas and encouraged and blessed as you play your part in the ongoing work that Charlene started and that continues to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children in Uganda. Last year's Big Festive Fry put clean water into the second school in Kahara in western Uganda. For further information contact Janice at [info@charlenesproject.org](mailto:info@charlenesproject.org) or 07709806418. Breakfast food item donations for the event are very welcome.

Annual CDYC Christmas Trip to Cork City. Saturday 14th December. Bus leaves Skibbereen 9.30am Returns 7.00pm. Ice Skating, Cinema, Shopping, Hot Chocolate in the Haven. Secondary School Age. Further Details Richard Anderson 086 7340484

## **Events**

### **Mallow Union Gala Christmas Concert.**

Friday 13th December 8pm. Admission €15.00 includes complimentary Mulled Wine and Mince Pie!. Featuring Tenor Ryan Morgan and many other star attractions. Further details 022-21473

### **Ecumenical Carol Service ~ Passage**

**West** - 15th December at 7pm. St. Mary's Church, Marmullane (Passage West) Passage West Folk Group and church choir will be performing

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### **Christmas with Cantilena in Seagoe Parish Church**



Having sold out the Market Place Theatre for many years, the group have decided to

bring some festive cheer to Portadown—more specifically Seagoe Parish Church, 17 December at 8.00 pm.

The first half of the concert will take you on a journey from the Advent to the arrival of the three kings with readings and carols, old and new, all by candlelight. Enjoy a mince pie and glass of Christmas punch during the interval before the group take a more relaxed approach with choral performances of everything from 'Blue Christmas' to 'Santa Claus is Coming To Town'. The concert is guaranteed to be a hit with all ages!

There will be a retiring collection, part of which will go to the building of a school in India. It is advised that you come early to avoid disappointment!

#### **Service of Institution, Hillsborough -**

The Revd Bryan Follis will be instituted as incumbent of the Parish of Hillsborough, in the Diocese of Down, on Saturday 15 March 2014 at 3.00 pm.

#### **Friday Night Live with SAMS** **07 Feb 2014**

SAMS Mission Director, Bishop Ken Clarke, warmly invites you to Friday Night Live 2014, on 07 Feb 2014.

You will be informed challenged and encouraged as you hear more about missional developments in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Peru. There are exciting stories of God at work. Refreshments afterwards will give an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones! Venue: Craigavon Civic Centre. Time: 7.30 pm

For further information please contact:  
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## **The Irish Canon**

**On Wednesday November 20th, Assistant Organist David Bremner gave a solo organ recital in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, as part of the [Association of Irish Composers](#) concert series The Irish Canon.**

The Irish Canon is an ongoing project that sees some of Ireland's top performers bringing specially selected programmes of Irish works to universities and venues across the country. With this series, the AIC seeks to create a new canon of Irish works, by ensuring multiple performances of music by Irish composers, and taking the first steps toward making them repertoire standards. Each programme is chosen by the performer as the best representation of the current Irish repertoire for their instruments.

The programme included ten works by living Irish composers; including Here be Dragons by John McLachlan, Mad Avid Sad by Donnacha Dennehy, and Sweelinck Fractal by Bremner himself; and was enthusiastically received by the audience.





*When Bishop Martin arrived to thank the members and bless the boxes he expressed his amazement and gratitude for this extraordinary effort and generosity by MU members and their families.*

## Baubles and Boxes - Advent is a serious business for the Mothers' Union

**Advent is a busy time for many of us but for the [Mothers' Union](#) in the Diocese of Newcastle it's one of the peak periods for their work of reaching out to people in need.**

Fresh from collecting for and supplying 135 sleeping bags (and still counting, actually) to help the [People's Kitchen](#) support homeless people in Newcastle, the MU has been supporting a national campaign to raise awareness of gender-based and domestic violence, as well as producing a record quantity of gift boxes for the [People's Kitchen](#) and [Crisis](#) to distribute over Christmas.

As part of the MU's national '[Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender Violence](#)', posters and leaflets have been distributed across the diocese. Working in partnership with Christian charity [Restored](#), the MU's posters are placed particularly in women's lavatories and invite those affected by issues of domestic and gender-based violence to make a telephone call or visit a

website as a first step towards addressing these serious issues.

MU members have also taken up the campaign's suggestion of writing letters and lobbying political figures, locally and nationally, to raise and maintain awareness of domestic and gender-based violence which is usually hidden but ruins lives when un-reported and un-checked.

The MU has been a long-term supporter of women's refuges in Northumberland and North Tyneside and this includes making up and supplying packages of useful items for women and children when they arrive at the refuges - sometimes with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing.

As a focal point for the campaign the MU has put up a large Christmas tree at the east end of Newcastle's [St Nicholas Cathedral](#), decorated it with the purple and yellow campaign colours and set up a stand beside it to invite passers-by to write and attach a prayer to the tree. Meanwhile the annual campaign to collect boxes of essential and festive items for the [People's Kitchen](#) to distribute to homeless people reached an all-time record of well over 500 boxes. Car-load after car-load of MU members with filled and wrapped boxes arrived at the Diocesan Office at



Church House on the morning of the 6th December, and as staff members watched

with astonishment the reception area gradually disappeared under the tide.

## Prayer for Today

Holy God, Open our hearts to your power moving around us and between us and within us, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.