

Online modern Irish texts archive launched

A new online archive of modern Irish texts was launched in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin. The launch was performed by the two Archbishops of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson and Dr Diarmuid Martin.

The archive was compiled by the Foclóir na Nua–Ghaeilge project at the Academy and staff intend to add to it as work on the project progresses. The *Online Archive of Religious Texts 1600 to 1882* is now available on www.fng.ie.

Among the texts are *An Teagasg Críosaíde*, by Bonabhentura Ó hEodhasa, published in 1611, *Leabhair na*



Archbishop Michael Jackson, Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dinny Mc Ginley, T. D. and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin.

Seintiomna translated by Uilliam Bedel, 1685, and *Tiomna Nuadh ár dTighearna agus ár Slánuightheora Íosa Críost* translated by Uilliam Ó Domhnaill, 1602.

All of these texts were published on CD–ROM in 2004, but as a result of a word search, only three lines of the text could be viewed at any one time. This is a very valuable tool for scholars undertaking research on the language of that period, however in this new archive, the religious

Churchnewsireland@gmail.com



texts can be read in their entirety and downloaded. FNG is grateful to the publishers who gave permission to republish these texts online.

Speaking at the launch Archbishop Jackson congratulated the Royal Irish Academy on the initiative which he termed “freedom of information, without some of the associations so often linked with the more conventional use of the term: FOI”.

“The Royal Irish Academy has, throughout its long and distinguished history, held together the conversation of courtesy in all things Irish and academic. Such conversation is cross–disciplinary and vigorously so, as Irish academics and intellectuals make their contribution, generation by generation, to the adventure of knowledge which today is an international journey. The launch tonight of digital access to Biblical and religious texts in the Irish language from 1600–1882 is a testimony to this generosity and this courtesy. It will widen and deepen the impact of faith and understanding as they engage with one another in a critical friendship which is always the very place to begin and end an argument about the things which really matter,” he said.

Archbishop Martin spoke of the importance of history and archives in contextualising the present.

“Archives are unique places of learning and discovery. They document our rich and varied history. Archives are like jigsaw puzzles and if one piece is extracted then the full story will never be known. I lived for many years in the Vatican, a place where manuscripts have been collected since the early centuries. In such an environment, it is not hard to imagine the initial scepticism and then concern and even a sense of sacrilege that emerged when e-communication exploded on the horizon,” he stated. “With this online archive documents can be studied in the digital environment or downloaded in their entirety. People all over the world have access to them, to engage, study, and be inspired by their contents.”

5000+ hits on Catholic bishops online Advent calendar

The recently launched Advent calendar on the homepage of the Irish Catholic bishops' website has proven very popular in dioceses and parishes around the country with over 5,000 hits in the first 12 days of the calendar.

The novel online Advent calendar was launched by Archbishop Eamon Martin on Sunday 1 Advent.

Speaking at the launch of the Advent Calendar Archbishop Eamon Martin said: “The season of Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the Lord’s coming at Christmas. Advent also prepares us for the second coming of Christ at the end of time. As Christians, we must always be prepared for the coming of the Lord as reflected in today’s Gospel reading at Mass, ‘You must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do

no not expect’ [Mt 24:37-44]. Taken together then, each day of Advent amounts to a period of time which allows us to journey and reflect on ‘the joy of the Gospel’. I invite everyone during the Advent season to visit and to enjoy the information provided on our online calendar.”

Commenting on the Advent Calendar, Brenda Drumm, Communications Officer with the Catholic Communications Office said: “We have had a lot of really positive feedback to the calendar from parents who are using the calendar each day with their children. The nature of the virtual calendar lends itself very well for use in the classroom and in the home. People are using the daily prayer intentions and enjoying the musical offerings of Advent pieces that are not as widely known as some of the traditional Christmas carols. People have also responded very well to the special Advent daily prayers and to excerpts from *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Apostolic Exhortation from Pope Francis.”

The Advent Calendar provides new content each day. The Advent Calendar can be accessed at www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar.

The Four Seasons at Christ Church

Christ Church Cathedral is delighted to present Vivaldi’s sublime masterpiece *The Four Seasons* by candlelight as well as a host of 18th century classics, featuring players from the Orchestra of St Cecilia on Saturday 21 December at 8pm.

An accomplished violinist, Vivaldi wrote over 500 compositions during his lifetime but it is *The Four Seasons* that has become one of the most popular pieces of classical music ever written and remains as popular today as when it was first performed. The evening will also feature such works as J.S. Bach’s enchanting *Air*



performing throughout the country, the Orchestra presents a regular series of concerts in the National Concert Hall. Highlights include the complete Mozart Piano Concertos with Hugh Tinney, the complete Beethoven Symphonies and Piano Concertos conducted and performed by Barry Douglas, and an outstanding symphony series conducted by Sir Neville Marriner.

Doors open at 7.30pm and the concert will begin at 8pm sharp. Tickets cost €22 (€20 conc) and can be purchased from entertainment.ie or by calling 01 677 8099.

Proceeds go towards the

upkeep of Christ Church Cathedral.

on a G String, Handel's *Concerto Grosso Op.6* and Mozart's *Divertimento in F*.

Soloist, Róisín Walters, began playing the violin when she was three years of age at the Young European Strings School of Music. She later studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music where she won every intermediate and senior string category at the festival competitions. Internationally she has been awarded first prize at the 1st Ernest Bloch International Music Competition, first prize at the Stefan Milenkovich International Violin Competition and composer's prize at the Canetti International Violin Competition.

In addition to performing with some of the leading Irish and UK orchestras, she performed in many venues throughout Europe. She is currently a member of the London Symphony Orchestra String Scheme with whom she has performed at the prestigious Barbican Centre.

The Orchestra of St. Cecilia has a notable reputation and is a firmly established part of Ireland's musical life. In addition to Churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Carols from the Old & New Worlds

The National Chamber Choir of Ireland returns to Belfast in association with Moving on Music for a celebration of carols.

The beautiful surroundings of St Thomas' Parish Church on Monday 16th, December, will play host to the National Chamber Choir as they follow the traditional O Antiphons through Advent form. Music will include well known carols such as 'O Come all ye faithful', 'Adam lay ibounden', & 'We Three Kings' through to the more contemporary featuring Irish composers such as Gerald Barry, Fintan O'Carroll and Eric Sweeney.

The performance starts at 8.00pm.

Tickets £12/10 <http://www.wegottickets.com/event/248516>

Vision of a shared future across Larne

The general manager of LEDCOM and a Church of Ireland priest were the guest speakers at the November meeting of the Tuesday Group.

Larne Times - David Gillespie and Rev. Helen McArthur, Priest in Charge of the Church of Ireland churches at Carnlough, Glenarm, Cushendun and Cushendall, were welcomed to the meeting in Drumalis.

David Gillespie gave a detailed account about the formation of Ledcom in Larne in 1985, at a time when unemployment in [the borough](#) was around 20 per cent, the building of the Ledcom sites at Bank Road in 1987 and at Willowbank in 2004, formed to promote self-employment and to encourage existing companies to grow and export.

Helen McArthur gave a brief summary of her former nursing career before she was trained, made a deacon and then appointed as Priest in Charge and came to live in the Church of Ireland Rectory in Carnlough.

She based her "Vision of a Shared Future" talk on the Beatitudes which, she stressed, must be accepted and lived as a whole and not only in part. She gave examples of how we all can 'reach out' in so many ways; to visit the elderly or a neighbour or just offer a chat to someone to whom a chat and perhaps a cup of tea might be the only encounter that person has had that day.

Tuesday Group chairman, Rev Dr Ivan Hull, thanked both speakers for their different approaches to a shared future.

The next meeting will be in Drumalis on December 17 when a "Christmas Reflection" will be given by Rev Jim Caldwell, Curate of the Church of Ireland Parishes of Larne, Glynn and Raloo. The morning will commence with refreshments at 10.30am, and the quiet time for reflection will start at 11am. All are most welcome.

On Sunday last a kneeler in memory of Mrs Carol McKegney was presented to St Dorothea's Church, Gilnhirk. The Celebrant at the service was Canon John McKegney, former rector, and the preacher was Mrs McKegney's father, Canon George Mitchell. The Rector, Rev Nigel Kirkpatrick received the kneeler together with the curate Assistant Rev Marie Walshe.



Service of Loss & Remembrance

A Service of Loss and Remembrance will be held in Drung Church, Drung, Co Cavan on Sunday, 29 December 2013, at

8pm. The preacher will be Bishop Ferran Glenfield. All are welcome.

Scots law influenced by Christian belief

Delivering the "Time For Reflection" in the Scottish Parliament Archbishop Leo Cushley, the Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, welcomed the opportunity to address the Parliament and told MSP's that Scots law has been heavily influenced by Christian belief and "reflected our relationship with God and our relationship with our fellow human beings"

The Archbishop added, "If our human laws failed in either of these two dimensions, the argument went, they would fail to promote the common good that all law must surely strive to uphold."

In his first ever address to the Parliament, the Archbishop, added that law must always evolve saying; "Human laws are of course imperfect just as we ourselves are fragile and imperfect." he concluded by praying "for all those who make Scotland's laws, that the Lord may bless them with



justice and temperance, with courage and prudence."

Scottish Church leaders share their hopes

Three of Scotland's leading religious figures met earlier this month to share their hopes for the Christian community and explore ways of working together in the future.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Right Reverend Lorna Hood, hosted an informal

From left to right, the Most Reverend David Chillingworth, Monsignor Leo Cushley and the Right Reverend Lorna Hood.



lunch with Monsignor Leo Cushley, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Edinburgh and St Andrews and the Most Reverend David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church at the Church of Scotland offices in Edinburgh.

New Clergy Discipline and Legislative Counsel to C of E General Synod appointments

The Appointments Committee of the Church of England have appointed Sir Andrew McFarlane as Chair of the Clergy Discipline Commission, and Sir Mark Hedley as Deputy Chair.

The new chairs will begin their roles on the 1st January 2014, and will also serve, respectively, as President and Deputy President of Tribunals.

Sir Andrew succeeds Sir John Mummery and Sir Mark succeeds His Honour John Bullimore, both of whom are standing down from office after 10 years in post.

Bishop of Guildford, Christopher Hill, recognised the work of the outgoing Chairs, saying:

"John Mummery has consistently taken a common sense approach to matters legal, which is straightforward and transparent. His very wide experience in terms of appeals within the secular courts, not least in relation to professional bodies, has been invaluable in his service to the Church as President of Tribunals.

"John Bullimore has also been a most valuable auxiliary in this respect and the Church at large, as well as the Clergy Discipline Commission, should be very grateful indeed for their ministry. Both have exhibited a sense of 'fairness' which is essential when justice not only needs to be done but needs to be seen to be done."

In addition, Mr Christopher Packer has been appointed as Legislative Counsel to the General Synod, and will take up his role in January. Christopher joins the staff of the Legal Office from the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, where he has



Mothers' Union members and staff from Mary Sumner house sing carols and mark the 16 day campaign against gender violence

been a Deputy Parliamentary Counsel since 2009.

Christopher succeeds Sir Anthony Hammond KCB QC, who retires as Standing Counsel to the General Synod at the end of the year after 13 years in post, and was given a farewell tribute by William Fittall, Secretary General of General Synod at its November group of sessions. In the speech, Sir Anthony was praised for his services to the Church after a distinguished career in the law.

CNI Notes

1. The Clergy Discipline Commission is constituted under s.3 of the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 ('the CDM'). The CDM makes provision for the discipline of Church of England clergy (other than in relation to matters of discipline, ritual or ceremonial). The Commission oversees the disciplinary system established by the CDM. Its principal functions are to issue codes of practice and general policy guidance to those who exercise functions under the CDM and to give general advice to disciplinary tribunals, bishops and archbishops as to the penalties which are appropriate in particular circumstances.

2. The President of Tribunals, and in his place the Deputy President, exercise a range of functions in connection with disciplinary proceedings under the CDM - including determining applications for permission to make a complaint out of time, reviewing decisions by bishops to dismiss complaints, hearing appeals by clergy against suspension and deciding when a complaint should be referred to a disciplinary tribunal for a full hearing.

3. Sir Andrew McFarlane is a Lord Justice of Appeal and Chancellor of the diocese of Exeter. Sir Mark Hedley is a former judge of the High Court assigned to the Family Division and Chancellor of the diocese of Liverpool.

4. The role of Legislative Counsel

Churchnewsireland@gmail.com

(formerly known as Standing Counsel) to the General Synod, which is undertaken by a member of the Legal Office of the National Church Institutions, is to draft all the primary, and some of the secondary, legislation passed by the General Synod, acting on the basis of instructions prepared by other members of the Legal Office.

For more information about the Clergy Discipline Commission, please visit: <http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/churchlawlegis/clergydiscipline/cdc.aspx>



Llandaff thins down

Jobs are at risk at Llandaff Cathedral as the Dean and Chapter seek ways to reduce an anticipated deficit of £81,000.

It seems the Cathedral Choir is likely to be worst hit, as five lay clerks, a choral scholar and the assistant organist have been invited to participate in consultation meetings during the coming weeks; their redundancies could save the Cathedral

nearly £50,000. The proposal is to maintain the boy choristers and to keep a budget to pay the adult singers on an occasional basis for weekends and special events, such as Advent and Christmas.

A spokesperson for the Cathedral said, 'It is with a very heavy heart that we have taken the decision to put a number of roles in the Cathedral at risk of redundancy.

However, we have a duty to be financially responsible and cannot run on a continuing deficit. We have considered all our options very carefully and feel these plans are the best way forward to enable us to save money while ensuring our choral tradition remains as good as it can be, and our music ministry has a secure future.'

The proposed cuts come only three years after the installation of the new £1.5m organ by Nicholson & Co.

10th anniversary of restoration of services in Berlin

On Sunday 1 December, St George's Anglican Church in Berlin celebrated the 10th anniversary of the restoration of regular services in central Berlin (Mitte).

The first St George's in the city was built in 1885 under the patronage of the Crown Princess of Germany, Victoria (eldest



St George's Anglican Church in Berlin

daughter of Queen Victoria) who was married to the future Kaiser Friedrich III. It was the only Anglican Church in Germany to remain open during World War I, as the Kaiser was the Church's Patron. It was closed in the Second World War and hit by allied bombing 24 Nov 1943 and the remains were pulled down by the East Berlin authorities. After World War II, new St George's, a garrison Church, was built in the British sector. In 1994 the new St George's became a civilian congregation of the Diocese.

In 2003 in a reunified Berlin, the Chaplain of St George's, the Revd Canon Christopher Jage-Bowler, with his Assistant Chaplain, the Revd Dr Irene Ahrens, decided to restart a weekly evening service back in Mitte, in addition to the regular morning Eucharist in the new St George's, The Marienkirche, the oldest still functioning Church in Berlin, has been the host venue for the Mitte service since 2007. The Marienkirche is only a couple of hundred metres from where the original St George's once stood.



What have they done wrong? It's a crime. The abductors want to demonstrate that they know no mercy.

"The Sisters were neither on the side of the regime nor on that of the opposition. In the convent they took in war refugees without regard for their religion, including Muslims."

On Sunday Pope Francis appealed for the release of the

Sisters who were abducted on December 2 by a group of armed men. On the same day, Al Jazeera broadcast a video which appeared to show the Sisters explaining that they had been taken for their own safety. Bishop Alnemeh said it was unclear when the video clips were recorded or how they were made.

In another Aid to the Church in Need interview, Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarch Gregorios III of Antioch said the nuns should be returned to the care of Greek Orthodox Patriarch John X of Antioch.

About 150 people attended the anniversary service, which included the confirmation of 10 members. Clergy from the Marienkirche robed for the service as did visiting Anglican clergy and ordinands who have had some association with the services in Mitte during the past 10 years.

St George's Berlin website - <http://www.stgeorges.de/>

Syrian bishop appeals for release of kidnapped nuns

A Syrian bishop has appealed for the release of 12 nuns kidnapped in the country last week.

In an interview with Aid to the Church in Need, Syriac Orthodox Bishop Selwanos Boutros Alnemeh of Homs and Hama said that he had not heard from the Sisters since their disappearance 10 days ago from the Convent of St Tekla in Ma'loula, a town north of Damascus. He added that he believed they are now being held 12 miles away in the town of Yabrud.

The bishop said: "I demand the immediate release of the nuns, who have done no harm to anyone. We've reached the point where even nuns are being abducted.

Churchnewsireland@gmail.com

A thought from Christian Aid

Susan Durber, Christian Aid's Theology Co-ordinator, asks 'Will there be judgement?'

In Advent, Christians read Bible texts about the coming judgement. These seem uncomfortable texts and not many preachers like to focus on fire, brimstone and judgement at this time of year.

But for those who are suffering now, the prospect of God's judgement on the world is a source of hope. The world will change!

The rich and powerful will be toppled and
the poor will be raised up!
An African American spiritual sings of 'the
great getting up morning'.

That's a different way of looking at
judgement.

I guess it just depends where you stand.

Prayer for Today

God of mercy, as we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, the Bread of Life, feed us with your plenty and increase in us compassion for the hungry; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Methodist Worship*