

Historic consecration service

The Service of Ordination and Consecration of the Revd Pat Storey as a Bishop took place at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin earlier today, Saturday, 30 November 2013, the Feast of St Andrew.

The service – an historic event as the first woman bishop was consecrated in these islands – was led by the Archbishop of Dublin, The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson and the preacher was the Revd Nigel Parker, Rector of the Parish of St

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wider Irish society, including The Most Revd Pat Storey's father and brother, husband, daughter and son-in-law and many close friends and family members.

The Old Testament reading was given by the Revd Earl Storey, Bishop Storey's husband; the Epistle was led by Mrs Dierdre Amor, a vestry member from St Augustine's Parish, Londonderry where the new bishop was Rector from 2004 to 2013, and the Gospel proclaimed by the Revd Trevor Holmes, a deacon.

In his sermon, the Revd Nigel Parker focused on the theme 'Consecrate yourself to the Lord' based on John 21. 1–17. (See Reflection, 30th December on this site).

The consecration brought together a large number of serving and retired bishops of the Church of Ireland, including The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh, and former Archbishop of Dublin The Rt Revd Dr Walton Empey. From the wider Anglican Communion, the Archbishop of Canterbury was represented



Comgall, Bangor. The congregation brought together over 500 people drawn from across the Church of Ireland and



“I count it an enormous privilege to begin a new phase of my ministry with the people of Meath and Kildare, and I look forward to working with the team of clergy who are already there”.

by The Ven. Sheila Watson; the Scottish Episcopal Church by the Primus, The Most Revd David Chillingworth, and the Church in Wales by Archbishop Barry Morgan; the Porvoo Communion was represented by The Rt Revd Karsten Nissen. Also attending from other Irish Christian Church traditions were: The Revd Dr Heather Morris, President of the Methodist Church

Daphne Wormell remembered

One of Bishop Storey’s early public engagements, on 9 December, will be to launch *With Dignity and Grace*, a life of the doyenne of the women’s ordination movement in the Church of Ireland, Daphne Wormell, who died in 2001. In her will Mrs Wormell made provision for a cross to be presented to the first woman bishop in the Church of Ireland and this will be presented to Bishop Storey at the book launch.

in Ireland; The Rt Revd Dr Rob Craig, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; The Most Revd Denis Nulty, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Monsignor Dermot Farrell attending on behalf of the Bishop of Meath; and Dr Gesa Thiessen of the Lutheran Church. Dr Ali Selim attended on behalf the Islamic Community.

State representation included Colonel Brendan McAndrew, Aide-de-camp, attending for President Michael D. Higgins; Cmdt Alan Bulger representing An Taoiseach; and Deputy Sean O’Fearchail, TD for Kildare. A reception was held in the State Apartments at Dublin Castle following the service.

Response

Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe Ken Good said he is ‘convinced that Pat will be an excellent bishop’.

Bishop Good said Pat Storey’s ‘warmth, her deep personal faith and her natural ability to relate to people have enabled her to make a significant impact throughout the city, the diocese and the wider

Ulster Unionist Party Assembly Member for Mid-Ulster, Sandra Overend, said the appointment signals ‘a progressive move by the Church and a forward step for women leaders’. Sandra Overend said that as a member for the Church of Ireland herself she ‘warmly welcomes’ Rev Storey into her new role. “This is a progressive step by the Church and one which is deserved entirely on the merits of Rev Storey’s previous works.

“I am sure that Rev Storey will handle her new role with the same grace and ability with which she held her previous roles”.

Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness tweeted:

“Warmest congratulations to St. Augustine’s Rev Pat Storey on her historic appointment as the new Church of Ireland Bishop of Meath & Kildare”.

Peter Lynas, director of the Evangelical Alliance in Northern Ireland has welcomed the appointment:

"We have greatly benefitted from Pat's wisdom as she has served on the UK Board of Evangelical Alliance for a number of years and on the local Executive. She will no doubt carry her passion for church unity and a society transformed by the gospel to her new post."

Larkin prosecutions proposal worth considering

A Catholic bishop has said Attorney General John Larkin's call for an end to Troubles era prosecutions "is worth considering".

BBC News - Last month, Mr Larkin said there should be no further investigations, inquests or inquiries into relevant killings before the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.



The attorney general's proposal was criticised by victims and politicians.

However, the Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor, Donal McKeown, said Mr Larkin had "asked a useful question".

"As we know we're in the middle of the Haass process, helping us to try and find ways to deal with flags, marches and the whole issue of a contentious, divided past," he said.

"And I think what John Larkin was saying - the only route we've gone down at present is the judicial route, trials and tribunals, inquests, and that really is not going to be the best way to enable us to get to the truth about so many deaths that have so far been unresolved.



"I know some have suggested there be a truth and reconciliation process which would essentially be amnesty connected as well. I think he's saying something slightly different, but I think we all are focussed not just on drawing a line under the past, but on finding a better way to get to the truth that will enable troubled hearts to be at peace."

The bishop said people were searching for "the best fit in a very imperfect situation".

"I think there are so many different needs that people have, particularly when they've suffered or been bereaved or been injured. Some will feel that really, they will never find peace until they've been able to see the person who killed their loved one in court or in jail.

"Others I know simply don't even want to know any more details, because they've found a peace with the past, so there certainly is not going to be some sort of perfect fit.

Dublin Installations

The installation in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin of the Very Revd William Morton, Dean of Derry, as Prebendary of Howth; and the Revd Canon Patrick

Harvey, Rector of Abbeyleix, as Prebendary of Stagonil will take place at Evensong on Sunday 19th January.

Georgian Day success

Armagh city has celebrated its 18th century heritage by hosting its 10th annual Georgian Day event.

Organisers said more than 20,000 people attended Saturday's celebrations.

It featured music, carol singing and a traditional Georgian Christmas market. The event culminated in a light show in the city centre on Saturday night.

Residents and visitors were given an insight into Armagh's rich history as the organisers tried to recreate scenes from the bygone era.

Participants posed as Georgian gentry, promenading the streets in authentic costumes, while horse-drawn carriage rides were on offer on the city's mall.

Armagh's Georgian architecture provided the backdrop for the light show in Market Street.

St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral hosted classical and folk concerts as part of the celebrations.

Road map through Lent for children

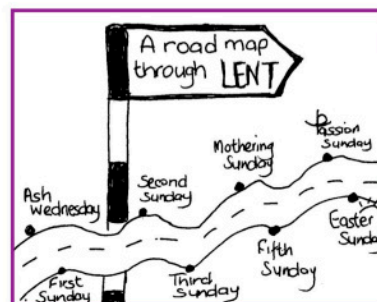
The newly formed Cork Cloyne & Ross Children's Ministry Network are organising a Training Day for Sunday Club leaders and assistant leaders entitled 'A road map through Lent'.

This event will take place on Saturday 8th February 2014 at Northridge House, St Luke's Home, Cork from 10 am to 2.30 pm. Further details at -

Churchnewsireland@gmail.com



Children's Ministry Network
(Cork Cloyne & Ross)



**A Training Day for Sunday Club leaders
offering practical ideas for the Sundays in Lent**

Saturday 8th February 2014

10am - 2.30pm

Northridge House, St Luke's Home, Cork

Fee €10 (including lunch)

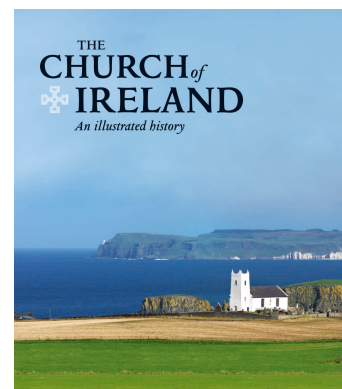
**Application forms can be downloaded from
the Diocesan Website
under Education/Children's Ministry**

<http://cork.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Road-map-through-Lent1.pdf>

C of I history book launch

On Tuesday evening the Archbishop of Armagh will launch the new illustrated history of the Church of Ireland in St Anne's cathedral, Belfast.

The guest speaker will be Professor Brian Walker who was the consultant editor of the book. A Dublin launch will be held in Church of Ireland House, Rathmines on Thursday evening at 7pm, in the presence



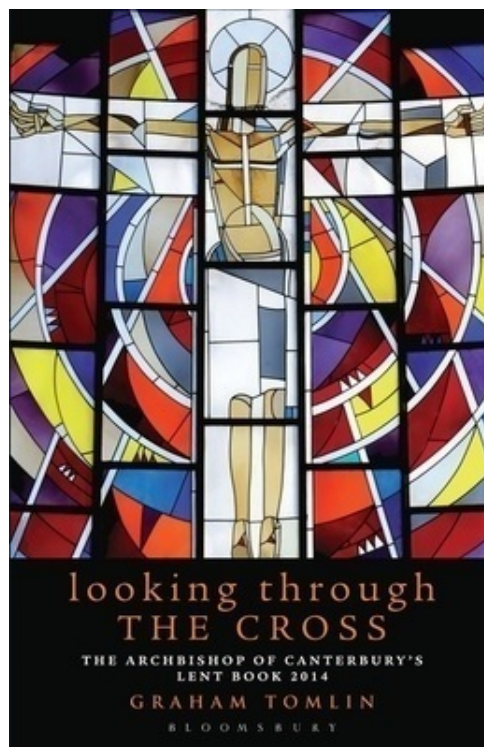
of both Archbishops. The Church of Ireland – An Illustrated History, a 400 page book in full colour, has been published by [Booklink](#).

Archbishop's Lent Book 2014

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2014 will be Looking Through the Cross by the Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, Dean of St Mellitus College in London.

The book, which was written at the invitation of Dr Rowan Williams, will be Archbishop Justin's first Lent book.

Archbishop Justin says of the book:
'Graham contrasts cross and culture, cross



and personal habits, and shows the attractiveness of the cross. In it is all treasure.'

Dr Tomlin said of the book: 'First, it looks at the cross, trying to make sense of this strange idea, that God the Father allowed his son to die a gruesome and painful death. . . The rest of the book is an exercise, not so much of looking at, but looking through. It proceeds to view the cross, not only as an object to be studied or examined, but also as a lens through which we might look at the world.'

The book will be launched in February.

Bible Society Christmas Gifts

For Christmas gifts see _

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/>



I'm heading to Lisburn's 1st ever Christmas Tree Festival - are you coming along for a look?

From 5th to 10th of December, Lisburn Cathedral will be filled with scores of trees, hundreds of musicians, and a warm Christmassy welcome!

Opening times

Thursday/Friday - 5/6 Dec - 11am to 9pm

Saturday - 7 Dec - 10am to 8pm

Sunday - 8 Dec - 2pm to 6pm

Monday/Tuesday - 9/10 Dec - 11am to 9pm

Read more about the festival by visiting
www.lisburncathedral.org

New statement on Civil Partnerships from the Scottish College of Bishops

The statement issued last month reads -

Blessing of Civil Partnerships

The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church in 2012 agreed not to adopt the Anglican Covenant. Since then, and within our own context, the College of Bishops has, on a number of occasions, considered how our church should best engage with those underlying questions of human sexuality which had given rise to the original idea of a Covenant. The College looks forward to the Church undertaking discussion of such matters as part of the process currently being designed by a group set up for that purpose by the provincial Mission and Ministry Board. The College in no way intends to pre-empt the outcome of those discussions. At the same time it recognises that the entering into of civil partnerships is a regular occurrence in Scottish society today.

In a previous statement the College indicated that it was the practice of the individual Bishops at that time neither to give official sanction to blessings of civil partnerships, nor to attend them personally. The Church does not give official sanction to informal blessings but each Bishop would nevertheless expect to be consulted by clergy prior to the carrying out of any informal blessing of a civil partnership in his diocese. The College is of the view that a decision as to whether or not to attend such an informal blessing should be a personal decision of the individual Bishop in question.
College of Bishops

Comment

Commenting on the statement, Kevin Holdsworth, Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, said, "I warmly welcome the fact that individual bishops may now choose to attend blessings of gay couples in church in Scotland. It may seem like a small thing but the idea that the happiest day of a couple's life was too toxic for a bishop to attend was always a terrible snub and I'm glad it is over."

With regard to telling bishops about blessings, it doesn't change much around here. I've tended all along to tell bishops about Civil Partnership blessings and indeed have been very pleased with their support and encouragement.

I am uncertain how they can take the view that a blessing is informal when one is supposed to let bishops know about it but that peculiarity does not make much difference in these parts.

Note that there was an official report in the Church of England yesterday which hinted that the church there might have discussions which might lead it to come to the view that its bishops might release guidance in a few years time about services which might "mark" relationships between same-sex couples in church but which are not supposed to be called blessings. There has simply never been that squeamishness about the word "blessing" in Scotland.

As for the word "informal", all I can say is that some "informal" blessings can be quite swanky affairs indeed.

How different the situation is for gay Anglicans in Carlisle, our neighbouring diocese to the south from that which pertains over on this side of the border."

Church of England and Stonewall to target homophobic bullying

The Church of England and gay rights group Stonewall are to work together to tackle homophobic bullying in Church schools, it has been announced.



Bp John Richard is the Church of England's episcopal spokesperson on education in the House of Lords

Stonewall said that, while it had not always agreed with the Church, they were "both on the same side here".

The news was revealed on day one of a three-day meeting of the ruling general synod at Church House, Westminster.

In July, the Archbishop of Canterbury said he would "specifically target" homophobic bullying in Church schools.

The Bishop of Oxford, the Right Reverend John Pritchard, revealed the collaboration on Monday afternoon, in answer to a question from members of the synod.

Read the rest at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-24996368>

[Editor's note: To learn more about the Anglican Communion's commitment to

stand in solidarity with homosexual people when others 'throw stones' - both literally and metaphorically - at them visit <http://www.dontthrowstones.info/>]

Phillipines appeal

The C of I [Bishops' Appeal](#) has been greatly encouraged by the response to the disaster in the Philippines by parishes and individuals. Donations will continue to be collected in the coming weeks for immediate needs such as shelter, food, water and hygiene kits. Once survival needs have been met, later funds will also be directed towards rebuilding homes and trauma counselling. Initial funds have been released through Christian Aid. Subsequent donations will be split between Christian Aid and Tearfund.

Prayer for Today

Eternal God, Help us to pray for the people of Glasgow. With thanksgiving we remember those who have shown courage. With concern we remember those injured. With compassion we remember the bereaved. With love we pray for all caught up in this event. Strengthen the weary. Protect the vulnerable. Embrace those who grieve. Amen.