

Nelson Mandela: a man of unity

Nelson Mandela was an example to the world – and the Church – of the equality, dignity and unity of all people; and a reminder of the importance of speaking truth to power.

Mandela – the first black president of South Africa - died on Thursday in Johannesburg at the age of 95, having dedicated most of his life to campaigning against the apartheid which kept whites and blacks in his native country separate.



end of an era. He represented for all of us a new beginning for all the people of South Africa.



“His powerful faith in a better future for all sustained his country through the birth pangs of creating a new and finer society.

“I join with so many others in

remembering

His tireless fight for equality for all saw him charged with sabotage in 1964 and sentenced to life imprisonment.

He was released from prison in 1990, and within four years had won the Nobel Peace Prize and become his country's first black president.

The Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, has paid this tribute to Nelson Mandela, who died on the evening of December 5 2013.

“The death of Nelson Mandela marks the

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the people of South Africa in my thoughts and prayers at this time.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church USA, said, “ The people of The Episcopal Church join the world in mourning [the death of Nelson Mandela](#), prophet and witness to justice. His leadership spanned decades, before and during imprisonment on Robben Island, and continuing into the establishment of a nation that aspires to serve the freedom and dignity of all human beings. He helped the world to see a shining vision of the

*No one is born hating another person
because of the color of his skin,
or his background, or his religion.
People must learn to hate,
and if they can learn to hate,
they can be taught to love,
for love comes more naturally
to the human heart than its opposite.*

Nelson Mandela

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incarnate Reign of God. We pray that it was not simply a brief glimpse, but that his labor may be joined to that of others, grounding and growing a world of peace with justice for all. May God welcome this shepherd home in peace."

The Revd Ruth Gee, President of the Methodist Conference in Britain, said: "Nelson Mandela is regarded as one of the fathers of Africa. His persistent way of standing up for justice has inspired Africans and the world at large. As a leader, one of his most impressive attributes was his emphasis on peace and reconciliation in the post-apartheid regime."

Responding to news of Mandela's death, Steve Clifford, general director of the Evangelical Alliance, said: "We are sad to hear of the death of this great man, whose tireless dedication to equality and the dignity of all human persons has been inspirational over the decades.

"As evangelical Christians we believe that all are equal in the sight of God, that Jesus is good news for all members of all societies, everywhere. Our prayer is that Nelson Mandela's legacy will not be

forgotten and that we will, together, continue to fight for justice, peace and hope locally, nationally and globally."

Dr Dave Landrum, director of advocacy at the Alliance, said: "Nelson Mandela stands out among world politicians because, although he suffered greatly for justice, he never forgot mercy.

"With his political leadership characterised by humility, dignity and integrity, he has left a legacy to the Republic of South Africa of reconciliation and hope for a better future. He reminds us all of our obligation to speak truth to power and to demand government for the good of all."

The Queen has led the UK in sending her "sincere condolences" to the family of Nelson Mandela and to the people of South Africa. Her Majesty said she was "deeply saddened" to learn of his death.

As books of condolences opened across the country, flags flew half-mast at the request of the Foreign Office. David Cameron visited the South African High Commission in London to offer his condolences, remembering a man who "will inspire generations to come".

Salvation Army Christmas Concert

The annual Salvation Army Christmas Concert in Dublin takes place in St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, on Saturday December 7 at 7.00 pm.

The event will raise funds for the Salvation Army's continuing work within Dublin which includes three residential centres and community work from their two worship centres. The leader of The Salvation Army within the United Kingdom and Republic of

Ireland, Commissioner Clive Adams, will act as compere and will address the congregation. Music will be provided by the Salvation Army Band, the Wesley College Choir and the Community Gospel Choir.

Dublin installation

Two new canons will be installed at Christ Church Cathedral this Sunday, December 8.

The Revd Nigel Sherwood, rector of Arklow, Inch and Kilbride, and the Revd William Deverell, rector of Tallaght, will become members of the cathedral chapter at a service of Choral Evensong at 3.30 pm on Sunday. All are welcome to attend the service and light refreshments will be served in the Crypt afterwards.

Witness to the Word

Chester Beatty New Testament Papyri is displayed online.

The Chester Beatty Library in Dublin has always been committed to increasing access to our collection objects through a variety of digital initiatives. In the summer of 2013 the Rights and Reproductions Office implemented and

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**DISCOVERY
GOSPEL CHOIR**
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12-14 DECEMBER 2013
Thurs 12th 8pm, Fri 13th 8pm, Sat 14th 3pm & 8pm

St George & St Thomas' Church, Cathal Brugha St, Dublin 1

TICKETS €18/15/12
(Family tickets also available)

www.tickets.ie

DISCOVERY
GOSPEL
CHOIR

oversaw two substantial research and digitization projects focusing on Biblical Papyri.

The results of the first collaborative partnership with the [The New Testament Virtual Manuscript Room](#) (NTVMR) from the [Institute for New Testament Text Research](#) went live in June, 2013. The NTVMR is a community portal for scholarly research of New Testament Greek manuscripts which contains images and transcriptions of our important Biblical Papyri collection, including fully digitized copies of CBL BP I (P45), CBL BP II (P46) and CBL BP III (P47).

In July and August of 2013, the Library hosted a research and digitization team from the [Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts](#). The team was able to digitize all but one of the CBL's biblical papyri codices (BP XVI, The Apocryphon of Jannes and Jambres the Magicians) along with a number of manuscripts and loose folios.

The Chester Beatty Library is excited to present this online exhibition, Witness to the Word, which celebrates both the biblical papyri collection and these rewarding collaborative partnerships.

[http://www.cbl.ie/cbl_image_gallery/\(X\(1\)S\(lcxpw1ez31sb0h45rui51h55\)\)/exhibition/overview.aspx?exhibitionId=18&AspxAutoDetectCookie](http://www.cbl.ie/cbl_image_gallery/(X(1)S(lcxpw1ez31sb0h45rui51h55))/exhibition/overview.aspx?exhibitionId=18&AspxAutoDetectCookie)

1.2 million viewers watch The Bible

The first episode of *The Bible* TV series was aired on Sunday night on Channel 5, attracting an audience of 1.2 million people in the UK.

The five-part series, which received three Emmy nominations, was produced by *The*

Apprentice creator Mark Burnett and his wife Roma Downey in partnership with the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) and is sponsored by Spring Harvest.

The 10-hour epic covers major events recorded in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.



The first part, entitled Beginnings opens with a dramatic portrayal of Noah's ark on storm-tossed flood waters during which Noah explains creation and the fall to members of his family. The episode covers key moments in the establishment of the Israelites as a people, from Abraham and the destruction of Sodom and birth of Isaac through to the enslavement of the Israelites in Egypt and their eventual emancipation by Moses.

The WEA explains that the series aims to inspire people to engage with the Bible in a fresh way with the slogan 'the story everyone knows, told like never before'.

Given the low levels of biblical literacy in the UK, some question whether this is the story everyone knows. Reviews in the national press have been critical but the Christian response appears to be largely enthusiastic.

Dr Geoff Tunnicliffe, secretary general of the WEA, said: "I had the immense privilege of previewing the entire 10-hour

TV Bible series. It was a marathon but well worth it. At the conclusion, I felt like I had gone through the whole Bible and experienced the meta-narratives of scripture – God's amazing love for humanity.

"This series is epic in its production, powerful in its storytelling and deeply spiritually moving. It is a once in a generation project."

Krish Kandiah, executive director of churches in mission at the Evangelical

Alliance, said: "I'm delighted that 1.2 million people across the UK watched the first episode. This must be one of the biggest group Bible studies in British history! It was exciting to see the Bible trending on Twitter while *The X Factor* and *I'm a Celebrity* were going on. Not everyone will agree with all the artistic decisions that have been made but this is a huge opportunity for the Church; let's not miss it."

The Bible was the number one cable series in America.

Christmas events calendar



*Everyone at Saint Bartholomews
wishes you a joyous Christmas*

We would be delighted to welcome you to any of our Christmas services including the following

Thursday 12th 7.00pm
District Scout Carol Service

Thursday 19th 7.45pm
Stranmillis University College
Carol Service

Sunday 22nd 10.30am
Nativity Service with refreshments

Sunday 22nd 3.00pm
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
with refreshments

Parish of St. Bartholomew
Stranmillis Road, Belfast
www.connordiocese.org.uk/stranmillis



Producer Mark Burnett, originally from Dagenham, is reported as saying: "We were very aware that our shows like *The Apprentice* come and go, but with *The Bible* we fully believe people would be watching it in 30 years. It's much more meaningful. This is certainly the most important thing I've ever done".

There are reports that 3,000 people were baptised as a result of the series at Saddleback Church in California, led by Rick Warren

A new website entitled *The Bible Journey* was launched to coincide with the series and aims to take people through the New Testament with the aid of

maps, original photos and profiles.

The creators are retired head teachers Chris and Jenifer Taylor who used material gathered from dozens of trips to the Eastern Mediterranean over 15 years. "We want visitors to the website to see the Bible 'on the ground' where it actually took place. It really opens your eyes when you cross the same wild mountain passes as Paul," explains Chris.

The Damaris Trust, working directly with Channel 5, has produced an official souvenir guide to the series. This 24-page glossy, photo-rich book features articles

and information on each episode, and explores the major themes such as choices and consequences, faith and life, forgiveness and transformation.

The Bible Society is offering free official resources connected to the series, including bookmarks, posters and souvenir guides.

The Evangelical Alliance is offering free online resources which provide background biblical material linked directly to each of the discussion questions in the Official Souvenir Guide. The background biblical resources are available at www.eauk.org/thebibleuk and the twitter discussion uses #thebibleuk.

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Episode two will be shown on Channel five at 9pm on 7 December.

For more information on *The Bible* series visit www.bibleseries.tv, www.facebook.com/bibleseries and for resources go to www.BibleSeriesResources.com.



Scottish Mothers' Union focus at Lambeth

To celebrate St Andrew's Day this year the library at Lambeth Palace displayed part of the Mothers' Union archive - of the organisation in Scotland.

A Library spokesperson said - to celebrate the occasion we have a stunning image of Scottish Mothers' Union badges which form part of the Archive of the Mothers' Union held here at Lambeth Palace Library. The Archive includes minute



Royal Charter in 1926 which stipulated that all office bearers must be Anglican Church members. In 1929 the Scottish MU became an Incorporated Society; however, in March 1984 it was dissolved and the remaining groups were affiliated with the Mothers' Union. A service to commemorate the Scottish MU took place at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh.

In 1912 the Mothers' Union was incorporated as a

church society and its new constitution expressed its primary aims:

books, publications, correspondence, photographs, slides and ephemera including banners, badges and even a jigsaw. It is invaluable to anyone interested in the organisation and more generally, the history of women in the Anglican Church.

The Mothers' Union was founded by Mary Elizabeth Heywood who was born on 31st December 1828. She was well educated and later married George Sumner with whom she had three children. In 1876 Mary started meetings for mothers in her parish, and she later created a membership card and the first Mothers' Union Prayer with her husband. Her impromptu speech in 1885 at the Portsmouth Church Congress inspired other women to establish their own meetings and persuaded the Bishop of Winchester to make the Mothers' Union a diocesan organisation.

Mary Sumner's visit to Scotland in 1887 sparked the creation of the Scottish Mothers' Union. The Scottish MU's affiliation with the organisation ended when the Mothers' Union was granted a



Model of Mary Sumner House

- To uphold the sanctity of marriage
- To awaken in all mothers a sense of their great responsibility in their training of their boys and girls (the Fathers and Mothers of the future)
- To organise in every place a band of Mothers who will unite in prayer and seek by their own example to lead their families in purity and holiness of life.

Irish missionaries who died for the faith in Korea

At the Winter General Meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference in the Columba Centre of Saint Patrick's College Maynooth, the Bishops welcomed and acknowledged the seven priests of the Society of Columban (popularly known as 'the Columbans') who are included in a list of 84 modern day martyrs which the Korean Catholic Church is promoting for beatification.

The Bishops asked the faithful to remember in their prayers the following Columban priests who died for the faith in Korea:

- Father Anthony Collier was born in Clogherhead, Co Louth on 20 June 1913. He joined the Columbans in 1931 and was ordained priest in 1938. Father Collier was martyred on 27 June 1950.

- Father James McGinn was born in Bute, Montana, USA of Irish parents of 15 November 1911. He joined the Columbans in 1929 and was ordained a priest in 1935. Father McGinn was martyred on 4 July 1950.

- Father Patrick Reilly was born in Drumraney, Co Westmeath on 21 October 1915. He joined the Columbans in 1934 and was ordained a priest in 1940. Father Reilly was martyred on 29 August 1950.

- Monsignor Patrick Brennan was born in Chicago on 13 March 1901 to Irish emigrant parents. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1928 and joined the Columbans in 1936. Monsignor Brennan was martyred on 24 September 1950.

- Father Thomas Cusack was born in Ballycotton, Liscannor, Co Clare, on 23 October 1910. He joined the Columbans in 1928 and was ordained a priest in 1934. Father Cusack was martyred on 24 September 1950.

- Father John O'Brien was born in Donamon, Co Roscommon on 1 December 1918. He joined the Columbans

in 1936 and was ordained a priest in 1942. Father O'Brien was martyred on 24 September 1950.

- Father Francis Canavan was born in Headford, Co Galway, on 15 February 1915. He joined the Columbans in 1934 and was ordained a priest in 1940. Father Canavan was martyred on 6 December 1950.

Bishops thanked Mrs Sabina Higgins, wife of President Michael D Higgins, for her comments at the inaugural awards ceremony in Dublin City University on 27 November last, when she paid tribute to the selfless work of Irish Catholic missionaries around the world in education, medicine and development work. Mrs Higgins said Ireland can be "truly proud" and spoke of the "great and well-earned reputation" of Irish missionaries who have served overseas".

Bishops' gratitude to priest

At the Winter General Meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference on behalf of members of the Episcopal Conference and staff, Cardinal Seán Brady, expressed gratitude to Father Timothy Bartlett, a priest of the Diocese of Down & Connor, for his valuable and enormous contribution to the Episcopal Conference over ten years in his role as Assistant to the Office of the President.

Father Tim's work involved supporting the pastoral work of the Conference in: protecting human life, child safeguarding, communications, public affairs and liaison with government and public authorities North and South, social justice/poverty issues, care for the environment, marriage and family, and in Catholic education.

Bishops paid warm tribute to Father Tim, thanked him for his vital support and wished him well in his future ministry.

Archbishop of Canterbury supports RNLI during diocesan visit

Archbishop Justin and crew travelled out to the site of the Solomon Brown lifeboat disaster, in which 16 people, including eight volunteer boatmen, lost their lives.

In a short prayer ceremony, the Archbishop



The Archbishop of Canterbury with Coxswain Patrick Harvey before boarding the lifeboat at Penlee Lifeboat Station,

boatmen was travelling on the boat with the Archbishop. The

Archbishop was visiting the station, run by the Royal National Lifeboat Institute, to acknowledge the ongoing dedication and sacrifices of its volunteers. Archbishop Justin was on a three-day visit to people and churches in the Diocese of Truro.



Truro Cathedral packed for a meditation and celebration of the Cross - Preacher was the Archbishop of Canterbury. See Reflection on CNI for his address.

laid a wreath on the water in remembrance of those killed. The widow of one of the

Canadian Anglicans offered seed money for Marks of Mission

The Canadian General Synod's Marks of Mission team is offering grants of \$1,000 to every diocese in the Anglican Church of Canada as seed money for projects that implement any of the the Anglican Communion's five marks of mission.



Canadian Marks of Mission

Each diocese needs only to select a project and send a 100-word description of it to the team at the church's national offices in Toronto in order to receive a Diocesan Champion Project grant. "It

could be artistic, it could be practical, it could be giving to the community. The Marks of Mission are pretty broad," said

Anglican Video senior producer Lisa Barry, who has also worked with the team on projects such as the "Amazing Grace" video project that raised funds for the Council of the North.

Canadian Anglicans are living out the Marks of Missions in a myriad of creative ways, said Barry. The Champion project is intended not only to support those efforts financially but to help share their stories with other Anglicans across the country.

Descriptions of the projects will be posted on the national church's website, anglican.ca

Prayer for Today

Holy God, Guide us in the path of discipleship,
so that, as you have blessed us,
we may be a blessing for others,
bringing the promise of the kingdom near
by our words and deeds. Amen.