



Patrick Hughes Photo - St. Patrick's Cathedral Armagh surrounded in #snow & getting clipped by the rising sun.

Down tree represents 13 decades of love and service by Mothers' Union

Members of Down and Dromore Mother's Union took part in a special tree planting ceremony at Down Cathedral on 7 December.

church.newsireland@gmail.com

CNI December 13



Diocesan President, Mrs June Butler, Lady Christine Eames and Dean Henry Hull

A commemorative tree is being planted in every diocese to celebrate 130 years of MU in Ireland.

Following a service of Holy Communion led by Dean Henry Hull, Lady Christine Eames, a former Worldwide President of Mothers' Union, performed the ceremony.

She said she had planted commemorative trees for MU around the world and expressed her delight at being invited to do so in her own diocese in this anniversary year.

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Mothers' Union Diocesan President, June Butler, thanked the Cathedral Board and Chapter for granting permission to site the tree in the grounds.

She explained that the rowan tree chosen by the cathedral was especially significant as MU in the Diocese of Down and Dromore was raising awareness of work of The Rowan Centre, a haven for all those subjected to domestic violence in Northern Ireland.

The young tree will grow in the grassy area facing the main doors, a reminder of 13 decades of love and service of MU in Ireland.

Inter-church carol service at City of Derry airport

Passengers who had disembarked from a delayed Stansted to City of Derry flight were assured they had not wandered into a flash mob on Sunday evening. They made their way into the terminal – cases in tow – just as the Eglinton Community Airport Carol Service was getting into full swing.

Scores of people had thronged the concourse for Sunday's interdenominational event, which

drew worshippers from Faughanvale Presbyterian Church, Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church and St Canice's Church of Ireland.

The carol service has become an eagerly-anticipated fixture in the Eglinton and Greysteel social calendar. A combined choir comprising children from Broadbridge and Eglinton Primary Schools led hymn-singing at the event and there was music, too, from a small brass band formed specially for the occasion.

The worship was led by local Parish Priest, Fr Noel McDermott (who gave the introduction and welcome), Presbyterian Minister the Rev Lindsay Blair (who read the Gospel) and Faughanvale Deacon the Rev Stu Reid (who delivered a Christmas message). During his address, Mr Reid surprised his young audience by unveiling a large cinema poster which had been used to advertise the film Paddington 2.

Towards the end of the service, a collection was taken up for the Salvation Army (earlier in the day toys had been donated to the charity by members of all three churches at their Sunday morning services). Mr Reid – who had provided reassurance to bemused passengers arriving from London – thanked City of Derry Airport for

once again accommodating the carol service and providing refreshments for those who took part.

Launch of Journeying in Faith – A Walk with Christ, by Canon Cecil Hyland

A new book by Canon Cecil Hyland, *Journeying in Faith – A Walk with Christ*, published by Church of Ireland Publishing (CIP), was launched by the Rt Revd Kenneth Kearon, Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe, in the historic surroundings of the Music Room of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, last night (Monday 11 December). A large turnout of people heard from a range of speakers who commended the new book as one which would be useful for engaging people seriously with the Christian faith.

Canon Cecil Hyland, who has served for over fifty years in the ordained ministry of the Church of Ireland, felt compelled to write a book on 'loving God with all our mind' (drawing on Matthew 22:37). He hopes that this book will 'encourage a continuation of the search for a faith that is alive and relevant in our day'.

Dr Kenneth Milne, Chairman of the Church of Ireland's Literature Committee, acted as MC for the evening, and explained that the new book 'fills a gap in publishing reflective material' by CIP. The Dean of Christ Church, Dean Dermot Dunne, welcomed everyone to the cathedral and praised the author's 'deep spirituality, commitment to prayer and ability to reach out to all in compassion'. Canon Hyland expressed his thanks to everyone who had supported and encouraged him during his life, especially his wife, Dorothy, saying 'all the commas [in the book] are hers'. He also thanked, among others, Dr Margaret Daly-Denton, the editor of the book, for all her guidance, Dr Susan Hood who had managed the process of producing the book with great calm, and Chris Conville who had designed the book with flair and imagination. He said that he felt that Christianity is 'about taking a journey – an adventure – with Christ. It will have times of joy and difficulty but there in the midst of it will be the presence of God and the presence of the community'. Canon Hyland also called for post–confirmation development of faith for Church of Ireland members, and hoped that the book could prove useful in that regard.

Bishop Kenneth Kearon – who had been a student at Trinity College, Dublin, when Cecil had been Dean of Residence (Chaplain) there –

formally launched the book. He drew special attention to the motif of the scallop shell, used throughout the book, which is a symbol of blessing for a journey and often used at baptism. He said that the shell is 'both fragile and strong, protecting the organism inside when it is being tossed about in the seas' and that this is a strong metaphor for the journey of life and faith. He said that 'the journey is valuable in itself as we learn from each other and build up a pattern for life on the way'. Bishop Kearon praised the book as 'a product of a lifetime of pastoral ministry' which would be useful for those who seek to 'seriously engage with faith'. While the book addresses 'big theological questions,' he said, 'it does so creatively, not destructively ... giving confidence to our questioning not uncertainty'.

Finally, Canon Hyland's old friend the Revd Ted Woods – who contributed a foreword to the book – concluded proceedings by recommending reading and reflecting on the new book. He said that we 'should not be afraid to ask questions, especially in times when people find faith in God difficult'. He said that Cecil 'brings light to dark corners' and stressed the importance of 'interpreting and living out our faith as an active part of a compassionate society'.

The book is available from <https://store.ireland.anglican.org/store>. It is priced €12.50/£10.

Sudden death in USA of C of I rector's son shocks local community

A close-knit community in Co Armagh is in mourning after the sudden death of a Church of Ireland rector's son in the United States. Philip Hagan from Tynan, son of Rev Matthew Hagan, is understood to have been discovered by emergency services at his Philadelphia apartment on Saturday after he failed to turn up for work on Friday.

The former Royal School Dungannon pupil had been working in the US for around two years.

Ulster Unionist MEP Jim Nicholson is a member of Aghavilly Parish Church where the Rev Hagan is rector. Mr Nicholson described the death of Philip Hagan as "tragic".

He said: "The Hagan family are highly respected in the Tynan, Middletown and Aghavilly area of south Armagh and my sympathy goes out to them on the death of young Philip.



Philip Hagan pictured in 2011 at a Scout awards presentation

“Family bereavement coming up to Christmas is not an easy burden to bear and our prayers and thoughts are with the Hagans at this time.”

Mr Nicholson’s expression of sympathy was endorsed by his son Sam, the deputy mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. Rev Hagan is the Church of Ireland chaplain to the Northern Ireland Hospice.

Former UUP MLA Danny Kennedy also knows the Hagan family well and said they are “really involved in both the church and the community”.

Mr Kennedy said: “They are well-loved within the area. These are very sad circumstances and this is a very severe blow to the family.” It is understood a post mortem examination will be held to establish the exact cause of death.

Lent Bible studies highlight Five Marks of Mission

The BACI Bible Studies for Lent 2018 have been designed to foster a biblical approach to the Five Marks of Mission, originally formulated in the Anglican Communion back in 1984 and much emphasised in the Church of Ireland in recent years.

Titled As the Father sent me, so I send you (John:20.21) the five studies focus in turn on the TELL, TEACH, TEND, TRANSFORM, TREASURE aspects of mission, moving from the teaching and pastoral care required after initial conversion to the wider social and environmental challenges of the Gospel.

The writers are the Rev Jack Kinkead, the Rev Lesley Robinson, Mr Philip McKinley, Canon Paul Houston and Mr David Ritchie of the RCB.



The Introduction, by the studies' editor Canon Ginie Kennerley, emphasises the importance of approaching the studies in a spirit of sincere discipleship: "Mission is being sent out, not by any human authority, but by the Lord himself. We are to go in His peace, and we are not to go until animated by the Holy Spirit."

The Studies will be launched by Archbishop Jackson at Church House in Dublin on January 23rd at approximately 1.15pm. Copies will be available at the launch at a 10% discount in bundles of 10 copies.

The retail price per copy will be £2.25 or €2.50, obtainable from the larger cathedral bookshops or by post from the Book Well in Belfast or Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland treasurer Barbara Bergin in Dublin (berginba@gmail.com).

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