

Seeds of Vision Sown at Dublin and Glendalough Clergy Day

The first steps towards the formation of a diocesan development plan for Dublin and Glendalough were taken by clergy on Wednesday November 6 in the Church of Ireland College of Education. Entitled 'From Lived Experience to Shared Vision', the conference was organised by Archbishop Michael Jackson.

Almost 70 clergy from all over the dioceses attended the day which aimed to let them voice their experiences and perceptions, gained through their work in Dublin and Glendalough and provide information on which to build for the future.



In his sermon at a Service of Holy Communion at the start of the day, the Archbishop said they needed to work together in discipleship. "A number of areas seems to me to be our priority in these United Dioceses for the immediate future," he stated.

He added: "We are always, in a sense, at a crossroads. My task of service as your bishop is that of shedding light, with



Gospel urgency, on the crossroads of our time. It is not something that I can do alone. It is something where the wisdom and the vulnerabilities of you who carry and share service with me in parishes, schools, hospitals and hospices, shopping centres, industrial estates, sports grounds, holiday venues and soup kitchens along with the wisdom and vulnerabilities of the lay people of God need to combine around God and neighbour."

Initial discussions in the seminar focused on the changes clergy had experienced. Issues raised included the political changes on the island, the impact of the internet age and of migration, the fluidity of congregations and the loyalty to denomination which has shifted to people looking for a church that fits them.

Other changes observed were the diverse backgrounds from which ordinands were now drawn and the gifts and challenges that brings. It was also suggested that there was a move away from the model of being a chaplain to the local Church of Ireland community to being a church for the surrounding community...

Prayer for Today

God, you have poured the Spirit of your Son into our hearts so that we call you father. Give us grace to devote our freedom to your service that we and all creation may be brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Clergy also shared stories of things they had tried in their own parishes including creating a space for families with children in church, providing tea and coffee after church, providing toys to entertain children, messy church and toddler groups and responding to the needs of the community in ways which also reflected the mission of the church.

Challenges were also identified. Among them was a perceived increase in 'malignant atheism', the stalling of ecumenism in some areas, the issue of 'people worship'

rather than 'God worship' and the relationship between parson and person. The need to make a connection with the huge number of 25 to 35 year olds who are outside church was also raised.

It was suggested that the 'genius of Anglicanism' was often underestimated which meant that many people thought in an Anglican way while not actually being nominally Anglican. However, it was also stated that there was an urgent need to grab that opportunity before people sailed past the church and into the secular world.

The Archbishop said that there was a window of opportunity but, because of the nature of our church and people, it could take quite a long time to engage with the opportunity. He asked what areas that brought to the surface in terms of resourcing so that people were available to do the work of God with the clergy.

Religious atheism, where people gather, hear talks and sing songs with no reference to God was also discussed. "It is important that there is a recognition where we swallow hard... We need to be advocates for what we believe," Archbishop Jackson said. "There are two

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issues for clergy – where our personality engages with our expectations of professionalism, and training to enable us to talk God with others in a way which is accessible and not open to ridicule."

A Bible study focused on Acts 2. 14–21 and the clergy were asked to talk through issues arising from the passage. Themes which emerged from these discussions included the forthcoming referendum on same sex marriage, gifts of ministry, suicide and mental health issues, post training courses for clergy, spirituality, the

inclusivity of the Holy Spirit and the church, working across parochial boundaries, freedom of expression in ministry, team ministry, a review of diocesan structures,

isolation in parochial structures, children's ministry, liturgy in funerals, the need for honesty in committees.

It was suggested that in society it may feel that Christian faith had been pushed to the side. However, there was a latent Christianity in society and even though other voices were speaking louder there was still an openness to Christianity.

Therefore there was a need to be bold and set out our stall alongside the other stalls. A sense of hunger for vision was identified, not just at parish or diocesan level but in the whole Church of Ireland.

The afternoon concluded with an honest and open discussion on aspects of the diocesan synods. The Archbishop created the opportunity for discussion on points raised in his synod address.

It is envisaged that a document from the day will form the basis of further discussion on forming a vision statement for the dioceses.

Tuam clergy retreat



Almost all of the serving clergy of TKA were taken on retreat early in November. This year the venue was the Benedictine House of Holy Cross Monastery near Rostrevor, County Down. It was a few days of calm reflection and worship in the beautiful and wild Silent Valley close to Carlingford Lough.

The clergy were greeted most warmly by Bro. Thierry who was Guest Master during the stay and who ensured that they all got to where they all ought to have got to at the right times.



The retreat comprised times of peaceful solitude with times of group discussion and study and contemplation. Revd. Richard Dadswell (a former archdeacon of TKA) led the group in three sessions of study on aspects of St Matthew's Gospel. The

Abbot of Holy Cross spoke to the clergy on the subjects of 'Loneliness' and 'Prayer'.

Meals were held in silence in the monastery refectory while the evenings saw the clergy in lively debate and general chit-chat.

New rector – all the way from Cape Town

Revd Alan Kilpatrick, formerly Vicar of St Luke's, Diep River, Cape Town, was instituted as rector of Knocknamuckley on Wednesday 6 November.

Alan, a Scot by birth, was ordained into the Church of England in 1996. He served his



curacy in Ealing and has since ministered in the USA and in Brighton, England, before moving to South Africa in 2009.

Alan has come to Down and Dromore with his wife of 24 years, Jan, and their children Jasmine (18), Keziah (16), Nathan (15), Rowan (12). His vision for ministry is 'to see God worshipped by all peoples and to equip people to reach out to the lost.'

"Jan and I are so excited about coming to Knocknamuckley, he says. "We truly believe that God is going to do something significant in and through the church and that heaven is going to invade earth!"

JFK 50th anniversary talk

Anthony Summers will give a talk today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The internationally acclaimed author will speak in Midleton College at 7.30 pm in the College Assembly Hall. Admission is free.

Cork Reader Commissioning

Four diocesan readers will be commissioned for the Diocese of Cork in St Fin Barre's Cathedral this coming Sunday at 4 pm.



Limerick mission meeting

A diocesan mission meeting is being held this Thursday, November 14 in the Woodlands Hotel, Adare at 8.00 pm.

This will be an opportunity to catch up on the diocesan mission projects and the agenda will include -

Up to date progress report on the Lunyengo Farm project in Swaziland given by Mrs. Linda Chambers, US Ireland.

Presentation by Students designing carrot washer for Luynego Farm

Mission Sunday 2013.

Reports by Parish Mission Representatives.

Everyone with an interest in mission both within their local community and overseas is very welcome to attend.

Refreshments will be served both before and after the meeting.

Derry Cathedral Choir to sing at Stormont

The Organist & Master of the Choristers, Ian Mills, and the Cathedral Choir have been asked to take part in the Northern Ireland Assembly Carol Service.

This will be held at Stormont on Friday 29 November at 7.00 pm.

The invitation was issued through the good offices of the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, Mr William Hay MLA, who is a citizen of the Maiden City.

BBC Choral Evensong

BBC Choral Evensong tomorrow, Wed 13th November is live from Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

BBC Radio3 - 3.30pm

Introit: Lacrimosa (Durante)
Responses: Morley
Psalms: 69, 70 (Stainer; Hawes; SS Wesley)

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First Lesson: 2 Samuel 18 vv6 – 19 vv4

Magnificat: Lambe

Second Lesson: Romans 8 vv31-end

Nunc Dimittis: John Tavener

Anthem: Valiant-for-truth (Vaughan Williams)

Hymn: Judge eternal (Rhuddlan)

Organ Voluntary: Acclamations (from Suite Médiévale) (Langlais)

Stephen Darlington (Director of Music)

Ghislaine Reece-Trapp (Organ Scholar)
(rpt Sun 17th November)