

Mission assists with communications for Filipino seafarers

Anxious Filipino crewmen and women have converged on the world's Mission to Seafarers' centres in the hope that they can quickly find out the situation at home, after Typhoon Yolanda is thought to have killed over 10,000 people.

With about 364,000 Filipino seafarers crewing the global shipping fleet, they make up 28% of the total crew numbers.

In response The Mission to Seafarers, the Anglican global maritime welfare charity, set up a new emergency communications fund, which gives free access to Wi-Fi and hand out phone cards to Filipino seafarers in its directly funded international centres.

Ken Peters, director of justice and welfare, said: "With so many Filipino crews around the world, we are very anxious to ensure that any crew member who needs to call home in an emergency can do so,



Corrymeela now have a range of Christmas cards on sale - details in this issue

regardless of the ability to pay. At the mission, we have offered an immediate bursary for 7 days, to MtS centres, to enable them to fund free calls home, either by connecting to Wi-Fi or to fund the distribution of free phone cards, SIMs or top up cards. We will monitor this situation closely but it comes in response to so many worried and distressed seafarers who are far from home and are desperate to get news quickly as they

come ashore in port."

Ben Humphries, mission chaplain in Mombasa, Kenya, said: "I have just been in the mission chapel with Loggan, a Filipino seafarer on the Bahamas

Prayer for Today

Lord and giver of life, you alone nourish and sustain your people, through Christ, the bread of life. Feed our hunger and quench our thirst, that we may no longer work for that which fails to satisfy, but do what you require, in obedience and faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

registered cargo ship 'Kumasi' which docked in Mombasa earlier today, having crossed the Indian Ocean Piracy High risk area from the Maldives. Loggan came to the mission anxious for news of his wife and young children as they were enduring the typhoon following on closely from the earthquake of three weeks ago.

Loggan had been at sea for four weeks and was desperate for his ship to sail within range of the Kenyan phone networks so that he could get news of his family. After having spoken with them, and watched some videos of how his family had survived which his friends had posted onto his phone, he then wanted a few moments of quiet and to have his family prayed for.

Humphries said: "Clearly these are the stresses that seafarers have when they await news of their family in worrying times, and this is how The Mission to Seafarers can help. I am delighted we are now able to

offer direct, practical communications services for free, in our key centers so that other seafarers can contact home quickly at this terrible time."

The Mission to Seafarers

Founded in 1856, and entirely funded by voluntary donations,



today's Mission to Seafarers is a registered charity that offers emergency assistance, practical support, and a

friendly welcome to crews visiting over 260 ports around the world in 71 countries.

Whether caring for victims of piracy or providing a lifeline to those stranded in foreign ports, the Mission there for the globe's 1.3 million merchant seafarers of all ranks, nationalities and beliefs.

The Mission to Seafarers' Patron is Her Majesty The Queen and its President is Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Trade Union Members Commemorate 1913 Lockout

A Service of Remembrance for those involved in the 1913 Lockout and for those who have worked in the trade union movement in the intervening years took place in the University Church on Stephen's Green, Dublin, on November 12.

Organised by SIPTU as part of their 1913 Lockout commemorations, the service was attended by church leaders from across the faith communities. The Church of Ireland was represented by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Diarmuid Martin was also present while the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Revd Dr Heather Morris and the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, the Right Revd Dr Robert Craig also took part.

There were also contributions from Joe Armstrong of Humanist Association of Ireland, the Revd Bridget Spain of Dublin Unitarian Church, John McCormick of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Maurice Cohen of Irish Jewish Community and Fr Godfrey O'Donnell of the Romanian Orthodox Church and President of the Irish Council of Churches.



The service was attended by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Oisín Quinn, the General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the General President of SIPTU, Jack O'Connor.

Introducing the service, SIPTU Vice President, Patricia King, said the evening was about remembering. She said there had already been commemorations but that it was time to remember those who took part in the Lockout, those who founded the movement, all the union staff who have worked tirelessly over the years, the shop stewards and union representatives and all members who had gone before in pursuit of justice and fairness in society.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin spoke of the Dublin of 1913 describing it as a divided city with pockets of great wealth and areas of extreme poverty where people lived in squalor. He said mainstream society failed to see the shadows of poverty. He said that continued to be true today where, in a wealthier Dublin, the mainstream was still blinded by selfishness. He said that last year the Crosscare foodbank gave out 500 tonnes of food and this year so far it had given out 750 tonnes. He asked that society hear and respond to the plight of the poor.

During the service candles were lit as an act of remembrance, soloist Jimmy Kelly sang 'Dublin City 1913' by D MacDonagh and the Last Post Lament was played by Seamus O'Rourke of the Dublin Fire Brigade Pipe Band.

Church leaders attended SIPTU's 1913 Lockout Service of Remembrance

On Wednesday the Archbishop of Dublin will travel to Vienna for the 9th World Assembly of Religions for Peace. On Thursday evening in St Macartin's Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen, the Clogher Diocesan Board of Social Theology in Action will host a meeting entitled 'Suicide – the Churches' Response'.

Small grants for volunteering

Good news for Volunteer involving Groups in Northern Ireland. The Department for Social Development NI Small Grants programme is now open!

Grants of between £200 and £1500 are now available to organisations working with volunteers in N. Ireland. The process has been simplified to make it even easier to apply.

The closing date for applications is Friday 29 November 2013.

There are two basic criteria:
You must have a constitution
Your income must not exceed £100k

Visit the AIVC (Association of Independent Volunteer Centres) [website](http://www.aivcni.co.uk/) for more information.

<http://www.aivcni.co.uk/>

The Association of Independent Volunteer Centres is a formal collaboration, designed to protect the interests of a 'people-

centred' approach to volunteering. Established in August 2010, AIVC is a well structured, strategically placed and passionate group of Volunteer Centres that are keen to retain their own independence and ensure that local organisations facilitate local solutions to local needs.

Corry Christmas cards and calendars now available

Corrymeela's Christmas cards are now on sale - From £3.50 for a pack of 10 plus p & P

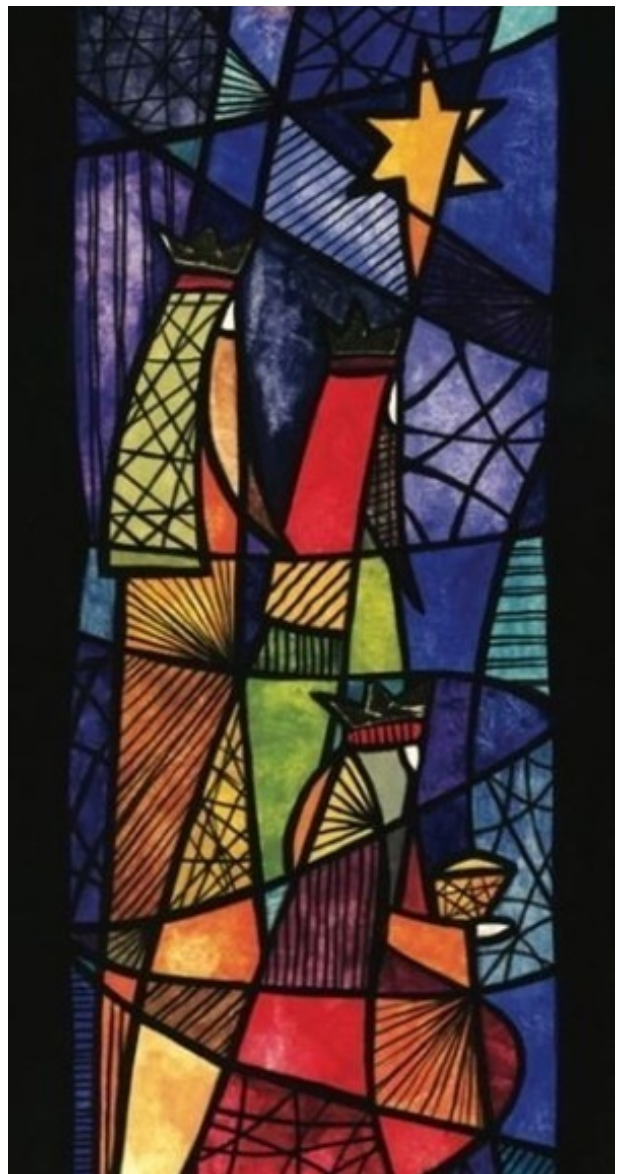


Moderator becomes celebrity chef

Presbyterian Moderator Dr. Rob Craig took on the role of celebrity chef when he served up an Ulster Fry for 20 homeless men during his visit to South Belfast Friendship House this month.

A well as frying eggs sunny side up the Moderator was there to talk to staff, meet people using the centre and find out all that goes on at the house just off Belfast's Sandy Row.

A community initiative of Presbyterian
Churchnewsireland@gmail.com



Women and the Presbyterian Board of Social Witness, the house runs everything from breakfasts for homeless people to after school clubs for children of all ages, toddler groups and senior citizens clubs and is open to the local community from Monday to Thursday every week.

Jenny Robinson is the Presbyterian Deaconess in charge of Friendship House. "During the week we would have over 150 people of all ages from the greater Sandy Row area come into the house. Through our programmes we want to provide a happy and safe environment where people find encouragement and help through practical and unconditional Christian kindness.



Presbyterian Moderator Dr. Rob Craig cooks up breakfast for homeless men at Friendship House in Belfast with the help of Deaconess Jenny Robinson who is in charge of running the centre off Sandy Row.

“Through its unconditional kindness, South Belfast Friendship House has become a place where everyone in the local community knows they will be accepted for who they are and can turn to for encouragement, help and assistance.”

Choral Evensong

Live from Merton College Chapel,

**Oxford on BBC Radio3 at 3.30pm
tomorrow Wed 20th November**

Introit: Cantantibus organis (Philips)
Responses: Matthew Martin
Psalm: 104 (Morris; Bairstow)
First Lesson: Daniel 9 vv1-19
Office Hymn: Let us raise high our songs of joy (Gonfalon Royal)
Canticles: Jackson in G
Second Lesson: Revelation 11 vv15-end
Anthem: Hymn to St Cecilia (Britten)
Final Hymn: Ye that know the Lord is gracious (Rustington)
Organ Voluntary: Prelude and Fugue on a Theme of Vittoria (Britten)

Benjamin Nicholas and Peter Phillips
(Directors of Music)
Charles Warren and Peter Shepherd
(Organ Scholars)

(No Sunday repeat)



“The community in the area are very supportive of our work and appreciate our ministry though at some times of the year, particularly in the summer, we are hindered by random vandalism to the roof and windows,” continued Jenny.

“This can be discouraging and is a drain on our limited budget but we appreciate the value local people place on our work and their inclusion of Friendship House as part of the Sandy Row community,” added Jenny

Relieved that people had enjoyed the breakfast he had cooked Dr Craig was enthusiastic about the work being done by Friendship House staff and their commitment to the people and families they serve.

“I had heard a lot about the good work going on in Friendship House and seeing it for myself I am even more impressed. The commitment of the staff is to be admired and the way they show their Christian love for the people they serve is an example to us all,” said the Moderator.

Update on the new secular Guide Promise imposed on Girl Guiding in NI

The Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian Church in Ireland (who partner the vast majority of Guide Groups) have voiced their 'deep concern' at this new Promise, and are asking that the option to be able to make a promise to God be reinstated.

Over 1,300 have signed a petition calling for the old Promise to be reinstated along with an alternative for those that don't want to make a promise to God. Our target is to reach 2,000.

Guide leaders here at a special meeting with the Chief Guide overwhelmingly opposed the new Promise yet the Chief Guide has since written to Guiding leaders here to insist the new Promise is here to stay.

Those resisting this change state - "This new Promise has already caused deep hurt in the Guide and Church community and threatens the great work that Guiding does here in partnership with churches.

"However a solution to this can be found if enough people support it!

"Please sign the petition at this [link](#), to ask Guiding Ulster to restore the old Promise with an additional alternative for those that don't want to make a promise to God."

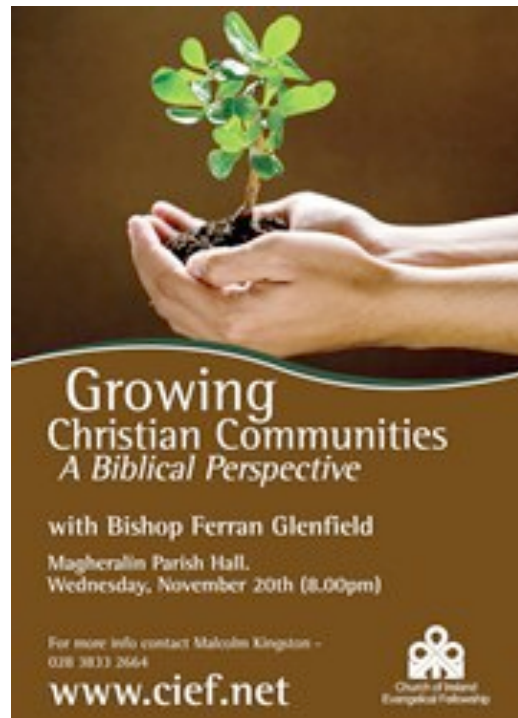
[Click here](#)

CIEF 2014 programme

The Church of Ireland Evangelical Fellowship has recently announced details of its 2013–14 programme of events.

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The theme this year is "Growing Christian Communities" and the first event, Sub–



titled "A Biblical Perspective" will be on Wednesday 20 November in Magheralin Parish Hall (3 Newforge Road, Magheralin, Craigavon, BT67 0QJ) at 8.00 pm. The guest speaker will be The Right Rev Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, who will highlight some experiences of the Church from the Scriptures and help us discover how we should seek to grow as a faithful Church in an ever changing and challenging world.

The second in the series will be "Growing Rural Christian Communities", with Bishop Ken Clarke, to be held on Wednesday 26 February 2014 at 8.00 pm in Fivemiletown Parish Hall.

The final one in the series will be Growing New Christian Communities and is scheduled for May 2014 in the Belfast area.

All are welcome and light refreshments will be served. For further information please contact CIEF Hon Secretary, Rev Malcolm Kingston, on 028 3833 2664.

News briefs

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ICC President Honoured by Romanian Orthodox Church

The President of the Irish Council of Churches, Rev. Fr Godfrey O'Donnell, was awarded the accolade of 'Stavrophore' by the Romanian Orthodox earlier this month.

Rev. Fr O'Donnell was conferred with the right to wear a cross as a special honour and symbol in recognition of his work to firmly establish the Romanian Orthodox Church in Ireland and of his long service to the Romanian Orthodox community.

The award ceremony took place in St. Columba's Parish Community Centre in Hartstown, Dublin, and was attended by 250 guests, including representatives from throughout the Orthodox traditions in Ireland.

In presenting the award which is in the gift of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan, Vicar Bishop Ignatie Trif, stated that almost all of the priests present were helped or supported by Rev. Fr O'Donnell at some point and had come to show their respect and appreciation. Bishop Trif also paid tribute to the close ties fostered by Rev. Fr O'Donnell with the Catholic and Anglican Churches, which aided him greatly in finding locations for new Romanian Orthodox parishes outside Dublin.



Upon receipt of the award, and the right to be known as a 'Stavrophore Priest', Rev. Fr O'Donnell expressed his deep gratitude and spoke of how surprised and overwhelmed he was to be honoured in such a way. He was particularly moved by the inclusion of his wife Ruth's name on the ceremonial scroll as a testament to the team leadership and guidance they provide to members of their parish. Rev. Fr O'Donnell also spoke of his delight that such a large number of Church members were present, particularly his very first parish priest, who had travelled from Romania.

The title 'Stavrophore' is derived from the Greek stavrophoros, meaning 'cross-bearer'. It is the highest award bestowed upon married priests in the Romanian Orthodox tradition.

Rev. Fr O'Donnell, who was born in Derry city in 1939, is a former member of the Jesuit Order, but entered the Orthodox Church in 1985 with his wife Ruth. Since then, he has served as President of the Dublin Council of Churches and has been actively involved in ecumenical, interfaith and commemorative events and projects. He has also worked for a number of years as a psychotherapist in North Dublin.

The last Census records that there are 45,000 Orthodox adherents currently living in Ireland.

"Rev. Fr O'Donnell was commended for assisting the first Romanian Orthodox priest to get settled in Ireland, for establishing their permanent worship

space in Leeson Park and for working tirelessly with many Romanian immigrants, helping them deal with immigration, visa and work related issues.”



Ireland's only daily church news service