

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Errigal witness

January 18, 2023

Image of the day

Errigal witness

Errigal mountain and The Sacred Heart Church in Dunlewey, Donegal. Photography courtesy of Cinedroneni

People and places

Donaghcloney Parish welcomes Peruvian visitors

On Friday 6 January, The Feast of the Epiphany, special visitors arrived in Donaghcloney Parish to spend a week with the Rector.

The Revd Anderson Sanchez, his wife Isabel, and children Ivana and Jacob arrived from Lima, Peru, where Anderson is Rector of 3 different congregations and Isabel is Principal of a Santisma Trinidad Primary School and Cristo Redentor Nursery School. Both Ivana and Jacob are in full time education.

The Rector, Revd Mark Lennox, has known the family since his first visit to Peru in 2015, and has visited and worked with them on three further occasions.

Anderson preached at all the services on Sunday 8 January. He said to the congregation, "I believe God has placed a message on my heart for you as a Church, that message is



– the best is yet to come”, while quoting from Jeremiah 33:3.

During their visit, the Sanchez Family spoke at many of the Parish Groups including the Mothers’ Union, Craft Class, Girl’s Brigade and Boy’s Brigade. They led the weekly assembly in both Donaghcloney Primary School and Waringstown Primary School and shared their ministry at different house gatherings. On Monday afternoon they had the opportunity to meet with Bishop David in Church House to chat about ministry and to pray together.

Local elected representatives also met the special visitors. Local MLA Diane Dodds facilitated a tour of Stormont, and on their final morning the Lord Mayor of Armagh, Craigavon and Banbridge, presented them with gifts at a reception in the Palace in Armagh.

The family spoke at other congregations and mission organisations during their time in Northern Ireland, including Fivemiletown Parish, Castledawson Presbyterian Church and at a gathering of OMS (One Mission Society) missionaries. Anderson, Isabel, Ivana and Jacob also spent

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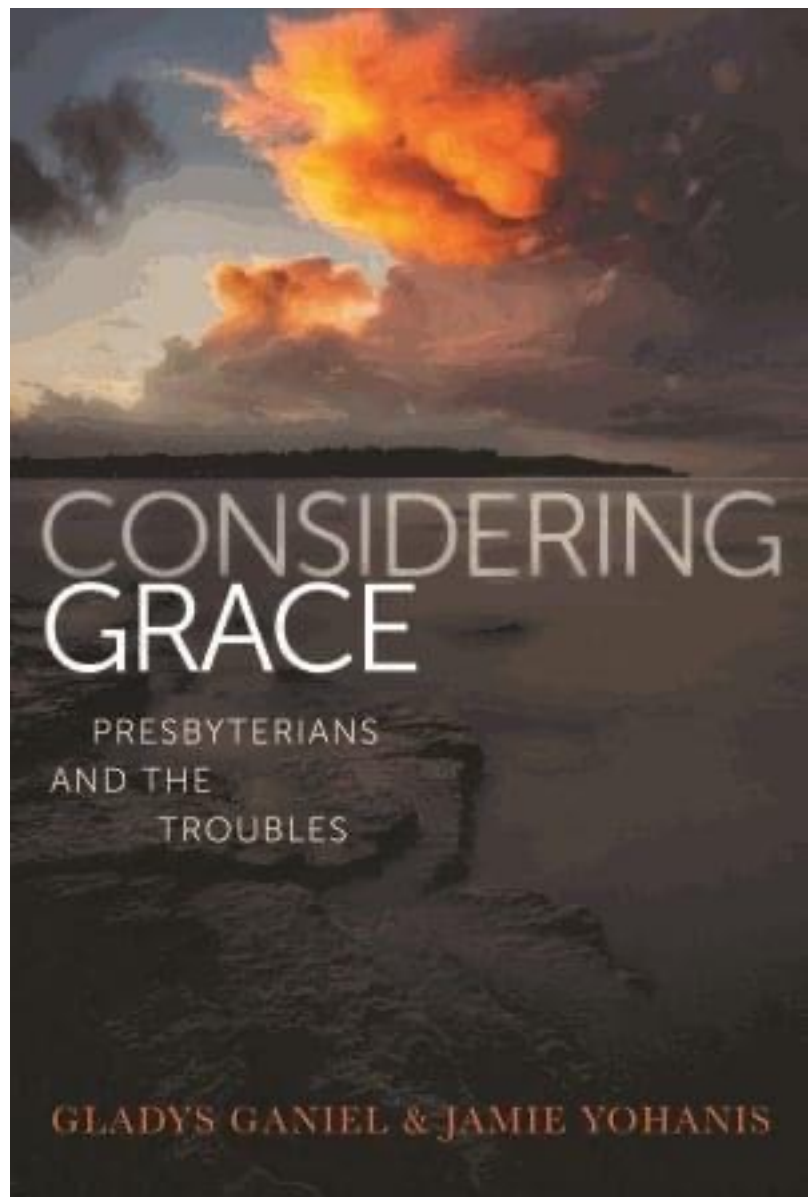
four days in Strabane Parish, before beginning the long journey home.

Speaking about the visit, Revd Mark Lennox said: “It has been an immense blessing and privilege to have Anderson and his family stay with me in the Rectory and for us to minister together again. I thank our Lord for this wonderful opportunity, and I am grateful to those whose generosity has made the visit possible. I sincerely hope that the link I have with Anderson will continue to deepen and that the Parish will be involved in future ministry opportunities in Lima”.

Guest Praise Service in Benburb

Sunday 22nd January, Intergenerational Praise Service, 6.30pm in St Patrick’s Clonfeacle (Benburb), with guest preacher Rev Dr Tony Davidson, former minister of 1st Armagh Presbyterian Church.

Tony is well known for his work on reconciliation and will



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speak on the topic 'Considering Grace', the title of his recently published book on 'Presbyterians and the Troubles'.

Followed by a cup of tea and a Q&A session in the Parish Hall. Visitors from all churches, or none, are particularly welcome.



A Diocesan Big Sing event is planned for January 2023.

This will take place on Sunday, 29th January 2023 at 7.00pm in St. Maeldoid's Church, Castleblayney.

A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners and the wider community across the diocese and beyond!



New bishops at Uppsala

Two new bishops in Church of Sweden consecrated by the Archbishop in Uppsala Cathedral

From the left: Bishop of Uppsala and the church's primate Martin Modéus (installed last year), Bishop of Visby Erik Eckerdal, and Bishop of Linköping Marika Markovits. — at Uppsala domkyrka

Dublin church unity service tonight

The Dublin Council of Churches with its 14 member churches, together with the Dean and Staff of Christ Church cathedral, extends a warm invitation to all to its opening service for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Christ Church tonight at 8pm. This year's theme, 'Be—

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longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice', was chosen by the Council of Churches in Minnesota in response to systemic racism as witnessed in the brutal killing of George Floyd in May 2020. The preacher at this year's service will be Canon Fr. Paul O'Driscoll, Roman Catholic Chaplain to the Travelling Community.

News reports

4 Corners Festival: Dreaming of a better Belfast

Now firmly established as an annual event, the 4 Corners Festival returns for its 11th outing at the end of this month, running from January 29 to February 5, The Irish News reports.

Originally the brainchild of Presbyterian minister the Rev Steve Stockman and Catholic priest Fr Martin Magill, the festival aims to connect the 'four corners' of Belfast - a city where, despite its compact size, it all too often feels there is still a great distance between its different districts.

From the start, the 4 Corners team has sought to hold events in parts of Belfast that many of the attendees may never have been to before, challenging people to get out of their own 'corners'.

This year's programme continues this proud tradition. For example, a discussion about the Catholic Church's



forthcoming synod will be held in the heart of east Belfast on January 29, at the Skainos Centre on the Newtownards Road.

That event - 'Dreaming God's Dream - Walking the Path Together' - will be addressed by Julieann Moran, general secretary of the Irish Catholic Church's Synodal Pathway.

Clonard Monastery will host a discussion about the role of women in peacebuilding on Tuesday January 31, with a panel including Inspector Róisín Brown from the PSNI, Dr Maria-Adriana Deiana from Queen's University, Eileen Weir from Shankill Women's Centre and campaigner Emma DeSouza.

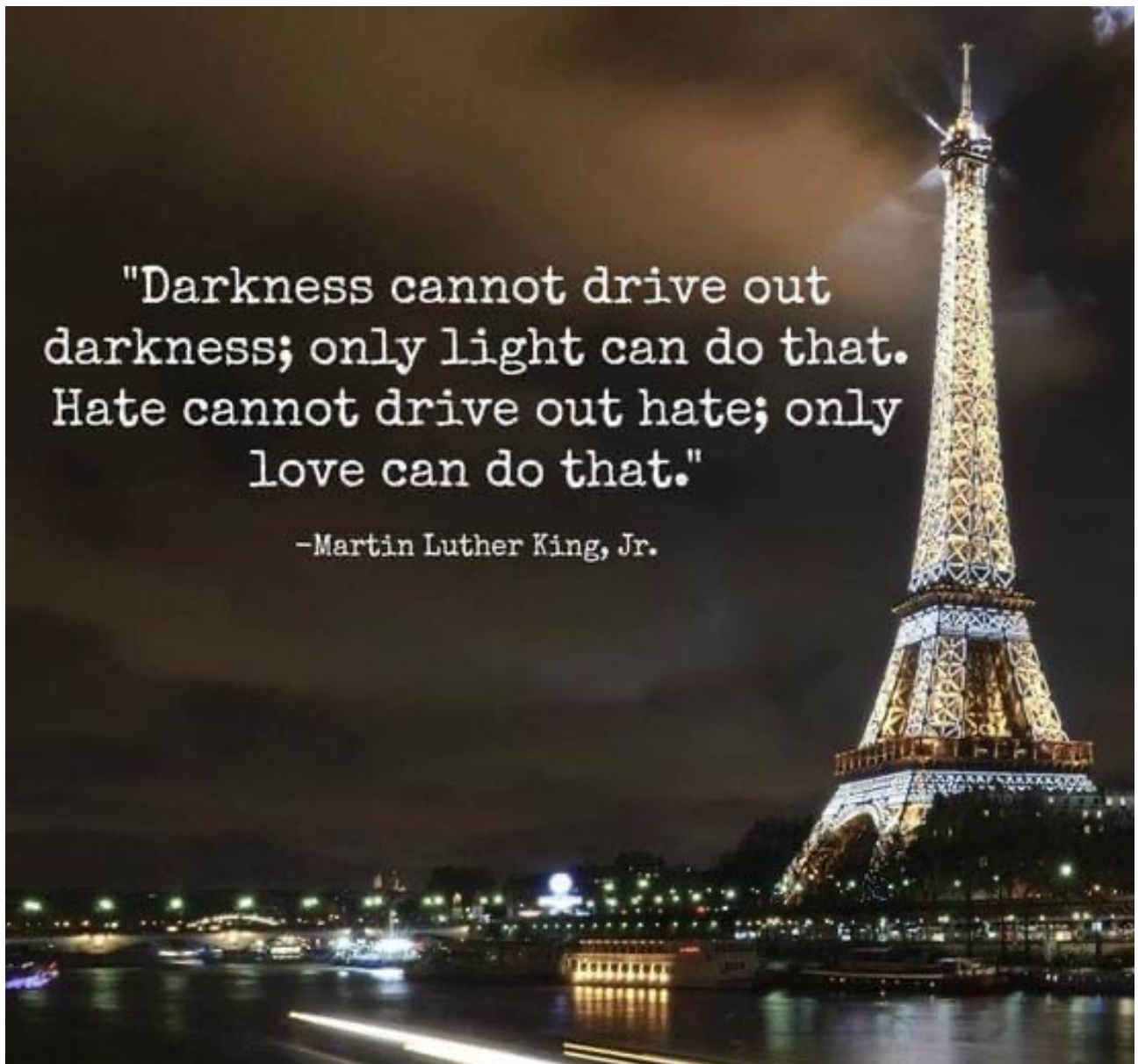
Throughout the week, 'Present Future', an immersive video and audio installation which explores themes of dreams, aspirations and leadership from the perspective of children and young people in Protestant, unionist and loyalist

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communities, will run at the Telegraph Buildings on Library Street in the city centre.

Underpinning the festival this year is the theme of 'Dreams... Visions for Belfast'.

"In 2023 it will be 60 years since Rev Dr Martin Luther King's astonishing 'I Have A Dream' speech in Washington DC when he articulated a vision for a better, more just, America," explained Rev Stockman and Fr Magill, adding that "2023 will also see us in Northern Ireland celebrate 25



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years since the referendum when 71 per cent of us in the north endorsed the Good Friday Agreement and dreamed of a better future for us all".

The festival will "be an opportunity for us to listen to our dreams", they said: "From Church leaders, to women in leadership to young loyalists to the homeless to artists we will hear the dreams and visions for a better Belfast."

:: More at 4cornersfestival.com

Report courtesy The Irish News

Celebration in Wexford as Nickey Rackard's son-in-law ordained a priest in the Church of Ireland

There was a cause for celebration in the Church of Ireland community in Wexford as Ciarán Kavanagh, a son-in-law of the late hurling legend Nickey Rackard, was ordained a priest at a ceremony in St Iberius Church by the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory Adrian Wilkinson, Maria Pepper writes in the Wexford People.

A Diocesan Reader since 2005, Ciarán is the fifth trainee of the new Church of Ireland Ordained Local Ministry (OLM) to be ordained a priest in the diocese.

Leading the service, Bishop Wilkinson said it was a wonderful privilege and pleasure to be present on a day of such joy and celebration.



“Baptism is the start of ministry for us all and we are all asked to offer our gifts to God and our talents, and by virtue of our baptism, God calls us to ministry and to service”, he said.

“We are here today to join in celebrating with Ciarán who has answered that call that began all those years ago at baptism.”

Ciarán, a former Irish Army commandant and retired primary school principal is married to Berna Rackard, a daughter of Wexford hurling great Nickey Rackard, who sang in the choir during his ordination ceremony.

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He was presented for ordination by sponsors including his daughter Elizabeth, his son David, and his sisters Maeve Dunne and Paula Creeber.

The preacher at the service, Canon Nicola Halford, Rector of Enniscorthy & Monart Union of Parishes, described it as a happy day for Wexford and Kilscoran Union.

“Ciaran already knows and loves you and you already know and love him”, she said. “He already knows how to find all nine of your churches. He knows how this community works, how you like to celebrate your joys, how you support each other in sorrow. He already understands the parochial context of ministry in Wexford. He is one of you”.

She wished him a long and fruitful ministry in Wexford where, as an Ordained Local Minister, he will work alongside the Rector, Reverend Norman McCausland, as part of the ministry team.

“Priestly ministry is truly an honour and a privilege with moments of great joy,” she said, “but it can also, at times, be demanding and heart-breaking. Lean on the community here who love and support you,” she told him. “As you minister to them, let them minister to you.”

Reverend Halford reminded the congregation that everyone should be open to being called to serve. “Not everyone will feel called to ordained ministry but everyone is called to something, be it reading, singing, Sunday school, youth ministry, administration, technology or online services, the possibilities are endless. Through baptism, each one of us have been gifted the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.”

Lessons were read by Francoise Davison, Victoria Hawkins and the Reverend Ger James (Carlow). Organist at the ceremony was Dr Jeffrey Cox.

Ordained Local Ministry involves working voluntarily while training encompasses a blended form of lectures, tutorials, workshops, on-line learning and self-study. OLMs serve in their own parishes and local areas after they are ordained, firstly to the diaconate and then to the priesthood (after further study). They are supervised during their ministry by a rector or archdeacon in charge of a wider area.

Jordan: Bishops from 11 countries visit Christian community

The annual Holy Land Coordination began on Saturday 14 January, when Bishops from 11 countries gathered in Jordan to meet with the Christian community.

There are more than 200,000 Christians in the country. Its Catholic parishes, schools and social projects form an important part of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

As well as visiting parishioners and young people throughout Jordan, the Bishops will be meeting Christian refugees from Iraq and Syria who have sought sanctuary in the country over recent years. These communities are assisted by the local Church and the Bishops will be returning to some of the projects they have previously visited, to reaffirm the support of the Universal Church.

The Bishops will also be meeting with diplomats and parliamentarians to discuss wider developments across the Holy Land. Jordan plays an important role including hosting more than two million Palestinian refugees and tending holy sites in Jerusalem. The local Catholic Bishops have recently called for efforts to address the increasing violence and political instability in the region, a message that was underscored by Pope Francis in his speech to the diplomatic corps this week.

As always, pilgrimage is a central aspect of the Holy Land Coordination. During their programme, the Bishops will be celebrating Mass at the site of the Baptism of the Lord and exploring how pilgrimages from their own countries can best continue to support the local Christian communities.

On Thursday night, Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Chair of the Holy Land Coordination, concelebrated the ordination of two new priests, in Amman's Church of the Good Shepherd, alongside Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

The Delegates this year are: Rt Rev Nicolo Anselmi, Bishop of Rimini, Italy, Rt Rev Udo Bentz, Auxiliary Bishop of Mainz, Germany, Rt Rev Peter Burcher, Bishop Emeritus of Reykjavik, Iceland, Rt Rev Christopher Chessun, Anglican Bishop of Southwark, Church of England, Rt Rev William Crean Bishop of Cloyne, Ireland, Rt Rev Michel Dubost, Bishop Emeritus of Evry-Corbeil-Essonnes, France Rt Rev Martin Hayes, Bishop of Kilmore, Ireland, Rt Rev Nicholas Hudson, Chair of the HLC, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, England & Wales, Rt Rev David Malloy, Bishop of Rockford,

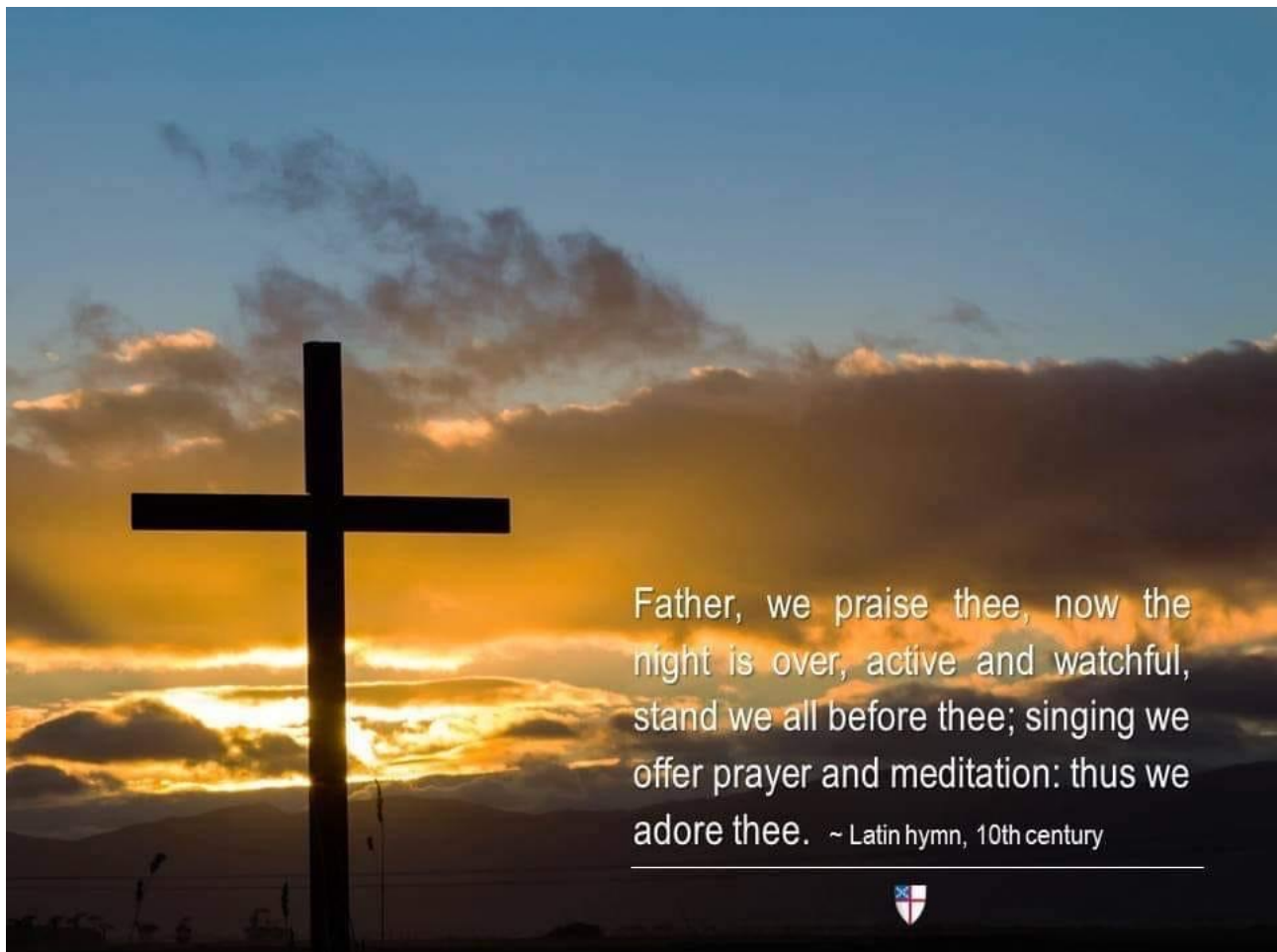
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United States of America, Most Rev William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow, Scotland, Rt Rev Paul Terrio Bishop Emeritus of St Paul, Alberta, Canada, Most Rev Joan Enric Vives Sicilia, Bishop of Urgell, Spain and Most Rev Cyril Vasil, Bishop of Kosice, Slovakia.

This year's Holy Land Coordination runs from 14 - 19 January 2023.

Since 1998, the Bishops' Conference's Department for International Affairs has organised the annual meeting of the Coordination of Episcopal Conferences in Support of the Church of the Holy Land.

The Holy Land Co-ordination focuses on the three 'P's: Prayer, Pilgrimage and Persuasion. Prayer is the framework



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of the annual meeting, with daily celebration of the Eucharist, often in different rites. Pilgrimage to the local Catholic communities is always a key part of the visit. The 'Persuasion' component usually occurs when the delegates return to their home countries and share their views with parliamentarians, diplomats and the media on a wide range of issues affecting the lives of Christians in the Holy Land.

Link - The Holy Land Co Ordination:
<https://theholyland.org.uk/>

In the media

'It's like having an All-Ireland medal' — Padre Pio's glove to go on display in Co Kerry

Irish Examiner - Fr Mossie Brick expressed his delight that the venerated relic of the Italian saint will be the focus of devotions in Castleisland

[<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/munster/arid-41049020.html>]

Enoch Burke jail: Debate on implications of transgender row case for Northern Ireland teachers

News Letter[-]The Department of Education has highlighted guidance for teachers who do not comply with trans language that their behaviour is “unacceptable and could infringe the young person’s rights”.

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The Church of Ireland (COI) said the case was a matter for the school only, and that it has "no stated policy" on the issues.

[<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/education/enoch-burke-jail-debate-on-implications-of-transgender-row-case-for-northern-ireland-teachers-3986882>]

Perspective

Church unity will not happen during our lifetime - Michael Burrows

Challenge is to walk together in pursuit of truth and justice, learning from one another's strengths

Sometimes on bleak Irish January evenings it is hard to rekindle one's enthusiasm for the various worthy local initiatives and liturgical events that accompany the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which has been a feature of this month in the ecumenical calendar for very many years. It extends from January 18th to 25th.

As I have sought to re-energise my own ecumenical vision I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to do so in the context of the Eternal City where I have served since 2019 as chairman of the International Board of Governors of the Anglican Centre In Rome. This remarkable institution, generously accommodated in one of the city's great Palaces — the Palazzo Doria Pamphilj, but a short walk from the Vatican — has been, since Vatican II, a veritable embassy for the Anglican Communion in Rome (ACR) — a place of hospitality, networking, study and theological encounter.

Like so many diplomatic missions in the area of the Vatican, the ACR demonstrates that Rome remains a place where some of the most important international conversations and exchanges of ideas — political and economic as well as theological — continue to take place. The resident director is Mauritian archbishop Ian Ernest from whom I have learned much concerning, for example, the plight of the island nations of the global south in the face of global warming and rising sea levels. Such crises present obvious challenges to all people of faith who are called to work together to safeguard God's creation.

The ACR in its work is a beacon for what today is often termed “receptive ecumenism”. While keeping our eyes on the ultimate goal of full organic unity, we also realise that this will not happen in the lifetime of any of us. The immediate challenge is to walk together in the pursuit of truth and justice and to learn from one another's strengths as we share the journey.

For far too long, not least in Ireland, separated Christians engaged in negative self-definition and consequent caricature of others — “we” did not do things precisely because “they” did them! Receptive ecumenism removes the scales from the eyes that once tolerated this mindset.

The late Pope Benedict XVI, with unique insights, probed in his writings the very person of Jesus in a manner that is a gift to Christians far beyond his own tradition. His good friend Archbishop Rowan Williams offers to disciples far beyond the Anglican world a quality of spiritual writing that

reflects one of the great public intellects of our time. These are things to celebrate.

At present, the Anglican Centre in Rome is monitoring the accumulating contributions to the exploration initiated by Pope Francis concerning synodality in the life of the people of God. We may think we have much to share with Roman Catholic friends concerning our long experience of synodical discernment and governance. But we also have lessons to learn — the Anglican (and certainly the Church of Ireland) approach to meeting in synod owes perhaps more to often adversarial neo-parliamentary procedure than to a more Spirit-infused model of how to hear the quiet voices which can often be the ventriloquists of what might emerge as unity in truth.

We also share across the ecumenical spectrum a passionate and mutually receptive concern for the safeguarding of the environment. There is no doubt that the utterances of Pope Francis, rooted in the encyclical *Laudato Si* have been pivotal in providing a theological imperative for environmental action.

When the Bishop of Rome utters on such matters, Christians outside his own communion do well to listen. Indeed there is a linear connection between the teaching of Francis and the Anglican initiative, encouraged at the international Lambeth Conference of bishops last summer, that there should be a global “Anglican forest”. It boils down to practicalities such as the planting of a tree by all who seek Confirmation in many of our dioceses this year.

It is that powerful reality of a common family which Christian unity week seeks to celebrate and which no prejudice or theological contention should ever put asunder

But the ACR is supremely about personal contacts. For me, one repeated joy has been encounters with the prominent cardinal from the Philippines, Cardinal Tagle, who was also a keynote speaker at the Lambeth Conference. In his address there he moistened many episcopal eyes by describing, when he was a bishop in his home country, being asked at a youth event to sign the T-shirt of a young man.

At a similar event the following year, the young man told the future Cardinal that he had never washed the shirt afterwards but kept it nightly under his pillow. For this young person, the lonely son of a migrant father whom he had not seen for years, the signed T-shirt was movingly his one piece of evidence that he belonged to a family.

It is that powerful reality of a common family which Christian unity week seeks to celebrate and which no prejudice or theological contention should ever put asunder.

Bishop Michael Burrows is chairman of the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue and Church of Ireland Bishop of Tuam, Limerick, and Killaloe.

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Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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