

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Enniskillen witnesses

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Enniskillen witnesses

The spires witness and more besides... See report page 9.

People and places

Glendalough Parish's Kenya connection honoured

Calary Parish's connection with a project supporting street boys in Nairobi is to be recognised in the naming of a new dining hall.

Calary in Glendalough has a long-standing relationship in supporting Sr Mary Killeen, who has worked in the Mukuru Slum in Nairobi, Kenya, for many years.

This vast slum consists of approximately 30 villages and is home to over 700,000 people. Most of these people have left their rural homes because of poverty and came to the city in the hope of finding work. Some are successful but the majority, being unskilled and uneducated, remain jobless.

Sr Mary runs the Mukuru Promotion Centre providing a home, education and vocational training in skills for street boys between 8 and 16 years.



The new dining room in the Mukuru Promotion Centre under construction.

Calary Parishioners and the wider community support the MPC through ongoing charitable giving. Each year the parish hosts a supper concert and raffle. Funds raised in Ireland go a long way in Nairobi providing food, clothes and an education to the children who would otherwise live on the streets.

This year, Calary fundraising donations went towards building a new dining hall for the children to eat in and socialise with each other. The dining hall will be called the Calary Dining Hall in recognition of fundraising and support over the past 20 years by parishioners and the many people who attend concerts in Calary Church.



Sr. Mary and John Medlycott of Calary during one of Sr Mary's visits to Calary Church.

Sr Mary visits Calary from time to time when she is in Ireland to give an update on the work being carried out. This year Sister Mary and her colleague, Sr Patricia, will celebrate 47 years working for the good of people of Kenya.

From Africa to Inver

A new Rector has been appointed to the Inver Group of Parishes in south west Donegal.

She is Rev Susan Elliott, a South African national, who lives with her husband, Don – a lay preacher – in Haenertsburg, in South Africa's northernmost province, Limpopo.



Rev Elliott was born in Durban and trained as a teacher, before taking up employment first in the fashion industry as a buyer, then as an interior designer. She ran a retail and design business for 26 years. Her career took her to Johannesburg where she met Don, and the couple married in 1998.

While attending her local Anglican Church, Susan was asked by its Rector to take communion to the sick and the elderly. “This was the start of the journey to ordination and full-time ministry,” she says, “although I didn’t realise that at the time.”

Susan underwent a “gruelling” vocational training programme, before being accepted for ordination training. She was ordained in 2018 and is currently serving at St.

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David's Church, in the small village of Modjadjiskloof. "The church numbers had dropped to four, as people left the area or became disillusioned with the lack of regular ministry. Don and I were both lay ministers before I was ordained and, as a team, we began to work to bring everyone back. God heard our prayers and slowly the Church came to life again.

A date has still to be set for the new rector's Service of Institution, but she says she and her husband can't wait to be living and settled in Ireland. Rev Elliott describes the impending move to Inver as an answer to prayer. "It is a dream come true," she says, "as we have wanted to move to Ireland or the UK for many years. I believe that God knows our hearts, our deepest desires and dreams –



Healing Service
God who specialises in the Impossible

7.30pm Thursday 26th January

St. Patrick's Church of Ireland
220 Newtownards Road
Ballymacarrett
Belfast

Br David Jardine
"God heals in many ways"

Prayer Ministry and Anointing with Oil

DHM
Diocese of Holywood and Raphoe

sometimes before they are even in our conscious thoughts. I also believe and often refer to a few words of scripture – ‘At just the right time’ [God acts] – that have sustained me. God’s timing is always perfect and, when we look back, we can see His hand and blessings on our life-path.”

News reports

Archbishop of Rwanda — speaker at St Patrick’s Day celebrations in Down Cathedral

The special guest at this year’s St Patrick’s Day celebrations in Down Cathedral will be The Most Revd Laurent Mbanda, Archbishop of Rwanda.

The theme is ‘Reconciliation’, a topic familiar to Archbishop Laurent who has been at the forefront of helping many in Rwanda deal with the impact and aftermath of the 1994 genocide.

The Bishop of Down & Dromore, Rt Rev David McClay says: “I have asked Archbishop Laurent to help us to look together at how we can deal with some of the pain that continues to be part of life and living for many of us because of what we call ‘The Troubles’. All of us have a responsibility to continue to support, understand and pray for those who have been impacted by loss and trauma and I hope that this special day of worship and prayer will be a source of healing for many.”



The archbishop was himself a child refugee from the ethnic tensions that erupted into organised massacres in Rwanda in 1959. He fled to Burundi with his mother at the age of five and has written about his experiences in *From Barefoot to Bishop: A Rwandan Refugee's Journey*.

Celebrations

The celebrations on Friday 17 March will begin with Holy Communion at Saul and the Prayer Pilgrimage to the Cathedral for the Festival Service at 11.45am.

Programme

9.15am Holy Communion at Saul

Preacher: The Very Revd Henry Hull, Dean of Down

10.15am Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick

11.45am Festival Service in Down Cathedral

Preacher: The Most Revd Laurent Mbanda, Archbishop of Rwanda

1.00pm Wreath laying ceremony at St Patrick's Grave

1.15 pm Complimentary 'Picnic in the Pews'

Transport to Saul

From 8.15 am private buses will leave from the Mall for the communion service and pilgrimage.

The last bus for the communion service leaves at 8.45 am.

The last bus for the pilgrimage leaves at 9.45 am.

The last bus from Saul to the Cathedral leaves at 10.40 am.

Inter-church witness in Enniskillen exemplary - Bishop Williams

A Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity took place in the Cathedral Church of St. Macartin, Enniskillen on Wednesday, 18 January.

Among those taking part was the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd. Dr. Ian Ellis; the Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd. Canon Kenneth Hall; Monsignor Peter O'Reilly of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church and the Revd. Lorna Dreaning of Enniskillen Methodist Church.

Also taking part were members of Fermanagh Churches Forum, which represents the main churches in the county.



The preacher was the Right Revd Trevor Williams, former Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, who, in his address, said he admired the work of the churches in Enniskillen for Christian unity so clearly demonstrated by the symbolism of Her Majesty The Queen's visit to the town in 2012.

He said they needed those symbolic aspects because of the world of division with people hearing daily of the differences of race, culture, politics and those of educational social backgrounds. These, he said, often became hostile barriers resulting in violence and bloodshed.

He reminded the congregation that the service was written by the churches of Minneapolis in the US. In May 2020, George Floyd was murdered by a police officer in the US city because of personal and also of institutional racism against Afro Americans. The churches of Minneapolis contributed to the service content "to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society."



One of the readings selected for the service was well known, the parable of the Good Samaritan in St. Luke's Gospel set on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho.

He said everyone should treat each other as Christians and learn from each other. This is one of the world's greatest needs. Everyone will learn from those who are different.

He went on to discuss how to promote unity between different people. Visiting was one way of promoting unity and hospitality another.

“Always think; who is not in the room. The work of Christian unity is not an event or a destination, it is a way of living,” said Bishop Williams.

He appealed to people to find ways in their lives to work for Christian unity and that by doing so they were not only

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loving their neighbours as themselves but witnessing to a broken, divided and difficult world of a new way, offering a new possibility, a new hope and a new peace. People needed to hear that, he added.

Prayers were offered by representatives of Enniskillen post primary schools under the themes of community relations, victims of violence, the sick, families, economic uncertainty, refugees and endangered people and endangered planet.

The service ended with the singing of “Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.”

Archbishop of Burundi refutes “fake news” of departure from the Anglican Communion

The Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church of Burundi, Archbishop Sixbert Macumi, has written to the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion and the Chair of the Anglican Consultative Council to refute reports circulating online that the Province is leaving the Anglican Communion.

In addition to his role as Archbishop of Burundi, Archbishop Sixbert is also the Bishop of Makamba. In his letter, sent with the agreement of the Anglican Church of Burundi’s House of Bishops, Archbishop Sixbert said reports that “the Anglican Province of Burundi is shifting from the Anglican Communion to Gafcon” were “not true”, describing them as “just a fake news from people whose intention is still unknown.”



[Archbishop Sixbert Macumi is Bishop of Makamba and Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church of Burundi](#)

He said: “I would like to strongly deny this false information that the Province of Burundi is intending to depart from the Anglican Communion and join Gafcon, by letting the entire Anglican Communion know that the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi is fully remaining and will always remain member of the Anglican Communion and well committed to observing the biblical truth and Christ-centred teachings and messages that are proclaimed to the world as it is recommended in Matthew 28:16-20 and as long as the 1/10 Resolution [of the 1998 Lambeth Conference] is observed.

Through the Secretary General, Archbishop Sixbert said: “I would like also to take this opportunity to inform the Anglican Church worldwide that the constitution of the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi . . . is much clear on being a

member of the Anglican Communion, and such decision cannot be changed unless Diocesan Synods, the House of Bishops, and the Provincial Synod, which are the Anglican Church organs for decision-making are consulted and therefore approve it.

“This means that whoever will not follow this procedure would be considered as a deviant to the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi.

“In conclusion, I strongly reaffirm that the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi is and will remain member of the Anglican Communion much as the biblical truth is observed and the Good News of Jesus Christ is faithfully proclaimed.”

Responding to the letter, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Bishop Anthony Poggo, said: “Anglicans in Burundi are a very important and much loved part of our Anglican Communion of churches.

“I do not know who is responsible for circulating these false rumours, but they seek to sow seeds of discord and disunity and distract us from our focus of being God’s Church for God’s World.

“I thank God for the ministry of Archbishop Sixbert and his co-bishops in Burundi, and of their faithfulness, and the faithfulness of their priests, deacons and congregations, to the Gospel of Christ.”

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

A conversation with Archbishop John McDowell for Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is marked this year on Friday, 27th January 2023, and has been highlighted by the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Revd John McDowell, in a video-recorded message of support for the day, and for our Jewish brothers and sisters and for others who have suffered because of acts of genocide. The video includes an interesting conversation between Archbishop John and Mrs Shirley Lennon, Northern Ireland Support Worker for the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

You're welcome to watch the shorter (6-minute) and longer (12-minute) versions of this video, and to share this with others. Links at -

[<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/11692/a-conversation-with-archbishop-john>]

The Trust is encouraging people to put a candle in their window, at 4.00pm next Friday, in memory. More information on its work can be found on its website at www.hmd.org.uk



Live link with Dean of Dromore in Maridi

You are warmly invited to join a livestream from Dromore Cathedral at 6.00pm on Sunday 29 January when Dean Geoff Wilson will be on video link from Maridi Diocese in South Sudan.

Dean Geoff will interview Bishop Moses Zungo and several others he has met on his trip and then the tables will turn as the Cathedral's Revd Trevor McKeown asks the questions.

Dromore Cathedral has a longstanding relationship with our link diocese and the Dean is spending four weeks of his sabbatical by fully immersing himself into life and ministry there.

Dean Geoff's visit is giving him a fuller understanding of the context in which our partners are working, and he is gaining valuable experience and interactions as he walks alongside Bishop Moses and the church family there.

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Hearing directly from Dean Geoff and friends in situ will give us a clearer picture of the current realities in Maridi and help us to pray more insightfully.

Link to livestream at -

[https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/01/live-link-with-dean-geoff-in-maridi\]](https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/01/live-link-with-dean-geoff-in-maridi)

If you would like to pray for Dean Geoff's trip please download a prayer card at link above

Perspective

Care for others is at the heart of opposition to assisted dying - Moderator of Church of Scotland

Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, explains how caring for others is at the heart of the Church's opposition to assisted dying. A bill that would legalise the practice will be discussed in the Scottish Parliament this year.

The Church cares about people - which is why we feel strongly that it would be wrong to introduce legalised assisted suicide in Scotland. This, however, is exactly what is being proposed by a Bill which will shortly be considered by the Scottish Parliament.

My experience, in common with many others in church congregations and communities throughout Scotland, has often involved the privilege of coming alongside people who are vulnerable, to provide support for those experiencing trauma, and to walk with people through the realities of illness and death. The Church has extensive experience in caring, particularly for those at the end of their lives.

While reaffirming the importance of caring for those approaching the end of their lives and supporting the provision of better palliative care, the Church of Scotland has consistently and repeatedly opposed any change in the current law, which prohibits assisted dying in all its forms (including assisted suicide, physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia).

Our opposition is based on our Christian faith and includes concerns around the principle of assisted dying, around the application of the law in practice, the perceived value of human lives, and also the effect this change is likely to have on the provision of care - especially palliative care.

We oppose assisted dying in principle

The current societal prohibition on killing is clear; to move away from this would not be a simple modification of the law, but would represent a significant shift from which there would be no return. This would have profound effects on how society regards those in our communities who are vulnerable. This does not just affect the elderly and infirm, but also those with disabilities, and those who are unable to speak up to protect themselves. Is this really what a caring society in Scotland means?

Similar laws have led to poor practice

In jurisdictions where assisted dying has been allowed, the experience of framing and maintaining safeguards has been fraught with difficulties, and frequently subject to removal or relaxation of restrictions to eligibility. In Canada, the law from 2016 was amended in 2021 to remove the requirement for terminal illness, and there is currently debate to extend eligibility even further. Similar patterns can be noted in the Netherlands: the law, passed in 2002, has contributed to a normalization of physician-assisted dying and has inevitably led to an expansion of its practice. Astonishingly, among doctors who acknowledged failing to report assisting a patient to die, 18% stated that they did not do so because reporting was "too much of an administrative burden"! Is this really the kind of attitude we seek to foster among those who care in Scotland?

The acceptance by society of legally assisted dying profoundly changes relationships not only between health professionals and patients, but also within families. We are concerned that, should assisted dying be legalised, the way our society views older people and those with disabilities will, over time, become more utilitarian. The lives of those on the margins of society will inevitably come to be seen as less valuable or even burdensome. Is this really the kind of society we aspire to?

We have concerns about the potential effect that this legislation may have on provision of palliative care. We would advocate for more and better palliative care; evidence from other jurisdictions suggests that allowing assisted dying has a negative effect on the importance placed on

palliative care. In Canada, for example, participants in a research study reported that Medical Assistance in Dying (the term used in Canada) had consumed resources that would otherwise be used to provide palliative care. Is this really the way we wish to see precious caring resources directed?

Every life has value

Given the pressure on healthcare resources, we are also very concerned that assisted dying could be seen as providing an opportunity for cost-saving. An analysis from Canada, referred to in the consultation document for the legislation shortly to be considered by the Scottish Parliament, states that a 2017 cost analysis of assisted dying concluded that: "Medical assistance in dying could reduce annual health care spending across Canada by between \$34.7 million and \$138.8 million"

There is considerable confusion in the general public about the what the term "assisted dying" means. In one survey, fewer than half (43%) of those interviewed correctly identified that the legal term "assisted dying" means providing people with lethal drugs to end their life- many respondents thought it means hospice, palliative and other forms of supportive care at the end of life, or giving terminally ill people the option of ending life-prolonging treatment. We are concerned about this confusion. It must be made clear what the proposed "Assisted Dying" Bill is about, to allow a better and more informed public debate about important and sensitive issues. How would others be affected?

We believe that, were assisted dying to be introduced in Scotland, the relationship between those cared for and those who have the duty to care (including family, health and social care professionals, but also society in general) would be irredeemably altered. The end of a person's life involves not simply the moment of their death, but also how they experience their final days and weeks. A good death does not need to be one which is hastened.

While many who advocate assisted dying point to the principle of autonomy and argue that one should have freedom to choose the timing and manner of one's own death, we urge everyone to remember that all of our actions have effects on others and that life is lived and death experienced as part of community and society.

In conclusion: The Church supports the existing law and protections around the end of life, and is opposed to a change to allow legally assisted suicide, or any other form of assisted dying.

The Church of Scotland seeks to show the love of Christ in supporting all - including the most vulnerable in our society. While respecting the sincerity of those promoting change, we remain opposed to any proposals to amend the law around assisted suicide.

Poem for today

On First Looking into Chapman's Homer by John Keats

Much have I travell'd in the realms of gold,
And many goodly states and kingdoms seen;
Round many western islands have I been
Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold.
Oft of one wide expanse had I been told
That deep-brow'd Homer ruled as his demesne;
Yet did I never breathe its pure serene
Till I heard Chapman speak out loud and bold:
Then felt I like some watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims into his ken;
Or like stout Cortez when with eagle eyes
He star'd at the Pacific—and all his men
Look'd at each other with a wild surmise—
Silent, upon a peak in Darien.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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