

Lisburn Mission trip to South Sudan cancelled



CMSI has announced that a planned visit to Yei, South Sudan, by the Lisburn Cathedral META (Mission Experience Team Abroad), which was due to depart next Saturday, will not go ahead at this stage.

This is due to the return of violence to the streets of the capital Juba and other parts of the country. CMSI have also appealed for prayers for South Sudan.

One of the seven Lisburn Cathedral team members, Billy Smyth, is currently in Yei with his wife Jenny and family. The Smyth family was based in Yei, as CMSI partners, for several years. Jenny (CMSI Mission Director) and her children are due to return home on Saturday, while Billy had planned to stay on to join the Cathedral team.

Connor Diocese has a long term partnership with Yei and several teams have visited in recent years.

On the Move youth outreach sweeps through Omagh

Young volunteers from the Church of Ireland swept through Omagh - literally - last week, as they took part in Derry and Raphoe Youth's annual outreach programme, 'On The Move'.

The volunteers gathered each morning for worship, teaching and prayer, and in the afternoons and evenings visited different parts of the town on a cleaning blitz. They tidied up gardens, cleaned roads and pavements, picked up litter, removed graffiti and painted fences.



The young people were based in Drumragh Parish for the week-long residential and were visited by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, and by the local Rector, Rev Ian Linton. The event was co-ordinated by Derry and Raphoe Diocese's Youth Officer, Martin Montgomery, who describes On The Move as "faith translated into action and service".

Martin said it was wonderful to see the volunteers making such a difference to the local community: "We're here as a group of young Christians, from local churches, who believe in reaching out and doing good to our neighbours in the way that God has reached out to us."

"It isn't easy to persuade individual young people to do chores in the community," Martin says, "but when it becomes a group activity,

something mysterious happens. Our week together is special for all those who take part - young people and leaders. It gives us all a chance to deepen our faith together and to put our faith into action.”

Bishop's congratulations to Irish hockey players

Following the announcement this week of the Irish Men's Hockey Squad to represent Team Ireland at the forthcoming Rio 2016 Olympic Games the Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton, has sent his congratulations and good wishes to each and every one of the chosen athletes, and particularly to the three Munster players from Cork: John Jermyn, David Harte and Conor Harte.

John Jermyn, Junior, son of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Registrar, John Jermyn Senior, is a past pupil of Saint Luke's National School, Douglas, Cork and of Ashton School, Cork.

David Harte and Conor Harte are past pupils of Bandon Grammar School, another of the schools in the Diocese.

Bishop Colton said:



John Jermyn, Junior, son of Cork Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Registrar, John Jermyn, Senior, who is one of three Munster players selected for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games

As Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork, I warmly congratulate John Jermyn, David Harte and Conor Harte, on this significant and wonderful achievement, and in addition, David on being selected as captain of the team. I know that I speak for everyone in the Diocese when I say how delighted we all are to hear this news of their selection to take part in the Rio2016 Olympics.

As Patron, of Cork Church of Ireland Hockey Club, I add, that everyone in the Club will be thrilled also that one of our players – John Jermyn, Junior – has been chosen.

These Munster players will be a huge inspiration to the many young people who play hockey and who take part in sport, and they bring great joy to us all of all ages. I also extend my congratulations and good wishes to all those who have been selected, many of whom I know personally, and, like so many others, I look forward now, even more, to following events at the Rio Olympics.

Brexit is ‘reality call to those in power’ says Nuala O’Loan

Answering questions from young people on the theme of Mercy in Politics, Baroness Nuala O’Loan said she thought there had been “a very significant absence of mercy in politics”. For politicians who want to live justly and love tenderly, politics can be a “profoundly difficult place” she told a packed hall at Focolare’s summer gathering at Dungarvan, Co. Waterford on 9th July.

Brexit was in part about the UK’s “membership of the EU and a faceless bureaucracy” and in part about the problems of immigrants coming into a society, elements of which were “very marginalised and getting poorer”.

But above all, said the former Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman, they said 'We've had enough.'

"And democracy actually works because although I was a Remainer not a Leaver, what I see is a reality call to those in power that says 'You have been doing it wrong for so many years and now change your ways'."

Baroness O'Loan said that she had taken part in a debate in the House post Brexit where 116 members had spoken. "What I heard there was the reality check really kicking home and people saying 'We do have to change the way we do government. We have to think very seriously. We don't want to leave but we can't have a second referendum. The people have spoken and we have to do what the people want'."

People of her own generation grew up with more security – grants for university, pensions, jobs that lasted and the capacity, if one worked hard, to get ahead. "Our younger generation have zero hour contracts, no pensions, no job security, houses are very difficult [to buy] so somehow in our priorities as politicians and as governments across the world we have failed the people," she said while expressing the hope that politicians (from parties) would be able to set

aside their differences and come together to work for the common good.

Asked about the refugee crisis and the Pope's action of bringing some Syrian refugees to the Vatican, Baroness O'Loan said it was like building the peace in Northern Ireland "It is through small actions together that we build mighty movements and I guess that is what Focolare is above all."

We have to care for the immediate refugees, she said, and stop the people smugglers. "And somehow as a society we've got to look back and see how did we get to this place? Learn from our history. We exploited, we grabbed, we took from all these countries from which the refugees are now coming. As a rich capitalist world we took their minerals, diamonds, gold and their produce. So what we have to do is build them up again so that people don't have to leave their homeland."

Baroness O'Loan said that in spite of the trauma, grief and tragedy that she has witnessed through her life and work, she was hopeful. "Martin Luther wrote that the Lord has shown the promise of the resurrection in every leaf in springtime and we do constantly see this resurgence of love and love will conquer evil. We

all just have to work at it and we have not to be lazy.”

Cardinal Nichols congratulates Theresa May

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has congratulated Theresa May on her imminent appointment as Prime Minister.

In a letter, the Archbishop of Westminster said he was “only too aware of the magnitude of the undertaking” the new Prime Minister was accepting.

“I assure you of my prayers and those of the Catholic Community in England and Wales,” he added.

On Tuesday, David Cameron chaired his final cabinet meeting as prime minister before May takes over on Wednesday. A nine-week Conservative leadership race had just begun, but May’s rival Andrea Leadsom withdrew on Monday.



Cardinal Nichols, who is president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and May have previously worked together in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery. She attended the first meeting of the Santa Marta Group in the Vatican in 2014, where in the presence of Pope Francis, police chiefs from more than 20 countries committed to working with the Church in combatting human trafficking.

"I am personally delighted at your appointment. I know from the work we have done together that you have so many qualities to bring to the service of our countries at this time. I appreciate the maturity of judgement, the steely resolve, the

sense of justice and the personal integrity and warmth you have always shown,” Cardinal Nichols wrote.

“I thank you for the remarkable work you have accomplished for the victims of human trafficking, including your strong personal support for the establishment of the Santa Marta Group, demonstrated through your presence at its first meeting in Rome. This is a clear indication not only of your determination to use high political office for the protection of some of the world’s most vulnerable people but also of your willingness to work with the Catholic Church at its highest levels.”

The letter added: “As you take up this new and demanding office of Prime Minister, I assure you of my personal support and I look forward to working with you across a wide range of issues in service of the common good.”

Scottish bishops urge British Government not to renew Trident weapons

The British government must take “decisive and courageous steps” toward ridding the country of nuclear weapons, said the Catholic bishops of Scotland.

All eight bishops issued a joint statement calling for nuclear disarmament ahead of a July 18 vote in Parliament on whether to renew the Trident submarine-based nuclear weapons system.

They said Britain had an obligation under the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty “to work toward the disposing and elimination of all nuclear weapons.”

“Britain should take more decisive and courageous steps to revive that aspect of the treaty and not seek to prolong the status quo,” the bishops said in the July 12 statement. The bishops also suggested the \$272 billion cost of replacing the aging arsenal of nuclear weapons could not be morally justified.

“The bishops of Scotland have, for a long time, pointed out the immorality of the use of strategic nuclear weapons due to the indiscriminate destruction of innocent human life that their use would cause,” they said.

“Lives are being lost now because money that could be spent on the needy and the poor is tied up in nuclear arsenals,” the bishops said, adding that they endorsed the words of Pope Francis that “spending on nuclear weapons squanders the wealth of nations.”

The Trident warheads are carried on four Vanguard-class strategic nuclear submarines based at Faslane in Gare Loch in the west of Scotland.

One of the submarines is always at sea, ensuring that Britain has the capability of firing a nuclear missile at any time.

The system dates back to the early 1980s, however, and soon will become antiquated. This means that politicians have reached the point when they have to choose to either renew or decommission it.

Theresa May, the incoming prime minister and leader of the ruling Conservative Party, is keen to retain a nuclear capacity, but the Labor Party leadership and the Scottish National Party want to scrap the warheads.

The intervention by the Scottish bishops represents the second time in a decade and the third in 35 years that they have called on Britain to rid itself of nuclear weapons.

The statement comes less than a year after Pope Francis marked the 70th anniversary of the day the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, by inviting humanity to reject war and to “ban nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.”

It also comes as the Washington Post reported that US President Barack Obama will use his final six months in office to push for a radical reduction of nuclear weapons globally, in the hope that the policy might lead to eventual abolition.

Cathedral and choral: Boyle Arts Festival

Boyle Arts Festival - Showcasing the finest performers from the world of Classical Music is the corner stone of the Boyle Arts Festival which starts on July 21 this year.

The Classical music programme will begin with a lunchtime piano and guitar recital by award winning teenage family duo, Liam & Alana McManus in King House on Friday July 22 while Saturday July 23 will see a lunchtime performance by Shane Kenrick (clarinet) and Emma Kenrick (flute). They will be accompanied by BAF 'pianist in residence' Mary Scarlett.

The newly formed **St. Joseph's Church Choir** will perform on Sunday July 24, while at 6pm on the same evening, King House will be the venue for Ensemble Avalon. July 25 will see a lunchtime performance in King House by 17 year old pianist Aidan Chan.

Also on the 25th, a concert featuring the pairing of words and music with a 1916 connection will make a powerful and spiritual evening event in the Church of Ireland at 8pm.

Baritone, Rory Costelloe will be joined by soprano Muireann Mulrooney and pianist Mary Scarlett in King House at 1pm on July 26.

Pianist, Peter Regan will make a welcome return to Boyle on July 27 with a lunchtime appearance in King House.

Dublin born Soprano Sandra Oman will be joined by Niall Kinsella on piano and baritone Simon

Morgan for a special concert in the Church of Ireland on July 27 at 8pm.

Soprano, Aoife Gibney will be accompanied by pianist Killian Farrell in King House on July 29 .

The Classical programme concludes with a lunchtime concert in King House on Saturday July 30 by the DIT Early Music Ensemble and a performance by tenor, David Scott, during the 11:30pm Mass in St. Joseph's Church on July 31.

News briefs

Pilgrimage of Columba sites - Fr Neal Carlin of the IOSAS Centre (Island of Saints and Scholars) will be doing a pilgrimage from the Columba sites in the Derry-Donegal area, down the West, visiting and praying at the ancient Celtic monastic sites throughout the summer and autumn of 2016. Interested people are welcome to pray at their local saint's ancient sites. Contact goldenagecentre@hotmail.com for further information or to get involved.

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Wedding outfits exhibition to mark union of Dublin parishes - In marriage, two persons are

joined together, and in the wedding service marriage is likened to the union between Christ and His Church. So it seems very fitting to celebrate the union of the Parishes of Drumcondra and North Strand which took place 120 years ago this year with an *Exhibition of Wedding Outfits* down through the years.

Ladies have you still got your wedding dress/outfit? It is planned to hold this *Exhibition of Wedding Outfits* on the weekend of September 30 to October 2 2016 in North Strand Church. The organisers are appealing for the loan of any wedding outfits as they would like to have a display of a wide variety of styles and designs to show how wedding outfits have changed down the years.

The wedding outfits will be displayed on mannequins. They would like to hear from you if you could lend your dress or outfit for the weekend. This invitation is not limited to those married in the United Parishes.

There will also be a Wedding Photo Exhibition of weddings held over the years in Drumcondra Parish Church or North Strand Parish Church. The organisers would like to hear from you with your photo so that they can incorporate them into the display.

Throughout the weekend refreshments will be served in the school next door. Group bookings will be welcome.

If you would like to lend your dress/outfit or photo please contact Anne Mercer ainemercer@hotmail.com or Jean Denner treasurednsnb@gmail.com

All monies raised will go into Parish Funds.

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National Pope John Paul II Award Coordinator

- The National Committee of the Pope John Paul II Award are seeking an enthusiastic and highly skilled candidate to coordinate the Pope John Paul II Award at a national level. The successful candidate will also help implement the Diocesan Plan for Parish Youth Ministry in the Derry Diocese.

The suitable candidate will have:

- A relevant 3rd Level qualification in education, youth work or pastoral ministry.
- Evidence of work on a paid / voluntary basis in the Catholic Church
- Evidence of leadership qualities
- Be proficient in ICT

Application Form and Job Description may be obtained by email to ddcc@derrydiocese.org or by telephoning (028) 71264087 during normal office hours.

Completed applications must be returned to: Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, The Gate Lodge, 2 Francis Street, Derry, BT48 7DS not later than 4.00pm on 5 August 2016.

Interviews will be held on 18 August 2016.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

UK toy shop with a Christian ethos to open first Northern Ireland store

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/news/uk-toy-shop-with-a-christian-ethos-to-open-first-northern-ireland-store-34877968.html>

Hate crimes fall in NI since Brexit

Irish News

The PSNI said 31 racist hate incidents were reported in the week after the EU referendum, a 34 per cent drop on the same period last year

http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2016/07/13/news/hate-crimes-in-northern-ireland-have-fallen-after-brexit-602716/?utm_source=Irish+News+Subscribers&utm_campaign=5e6c13200b-NL+13%2F07%2F2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_

c994fce791-5e6c13200b-107851789&mc_cid=5e6c13200b&mc_eid=23f2f80c40

Higher education deficit must be tackled, warns expert group chair

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/higher-education-deficit-must-be-tackled-warns-expert-group-chair-1.2718234>

Guard

Reports on the Lords Debate on the Chilcot Report. The Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, acknowledged the pressures on Prime Minister Tony Blair and members of his government but said political leaders needed to maintain a sense of historical perspective at times of crisis. "Someone who dwells on history may be somewhat tedious, but at the same time someone with a sense of destiny and no sense of history can be very dangerous," he said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/12/blair-government-dysfunctional-lords-debate-chilcot-report>

Mail

Reports that a priest has been banned from teaching for life after he admitted carrying out extra reading tests on seven-year-olds. The Revd Paul Lock, was headteacher at Willow Tree Primary School in St Helens, Merseyside, where 40 children underwent key stage one phonics testing last summer. The exam requires children to read a list of words out loud while a teacher listens to their pronunciation in a specially-assigned testing room.

However colleagues reported that Mr Lock - a former director of the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education - had carried out extra tests in the corridor afterwards. The local council launched an investigation, Mr Lock was suspended and all 40 children's test results were declared void.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3687235/Priest-banned-teaching-life-helping-cheat-exam-reading-tests-seven-year-olds.html>

Guard

Reports that a day after the Anglican Church of Canada narrowly voted not to authorise same-sex marriage, questions about the integrity of the voting process emerged, leading to a reversal of the result. More than 200 delegates attending the six-day general synod 2016 narrowly rejected the resolution on Monday night after hearing from more than 60 speakers, most of them in favour of gay marriage. However, on Tuesday - the last day of the triennial conference - some members stood up to say their ballot had not been recorded during voting late on Monday, when the resolution failed to pass by a single vote. Delegates requested a detailed hard copy of the electronic voting records, which led to a recount. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Church then declared the resolution in favour of same-sex marriage passed.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/13/anglican-church-of-canada-backs-same-sex-marriage-a-day-after-rejecting-it>

Mail

Reports that more than 1,000 children stood in silence to form a guard of honour during the funeral procession of

their school friend as his cortege drove through Uppermill, Greater Manchester. Pupils from Saddleworth School, with hundreds of teachers, villagers and business owners, paid their respects to Tyrese Glasgow. The procession was followed by a funeral service at St James Church in Oldham, conducted by the Revd Paul Plumpton who had baptised Tyrese there 12 years ago. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3686913/More-1-000-schoolchildren-stand-absolute-silence-form-poignant-guard-honour-funeral-procession-boy-12.html>

Tel

Reports that members of General Synod were asked to observe a strict Twitter and Facebook purdah as they embarked on a 48-hour “Shared Conversations” session to discuss differences over human sexuality. The talks are taking place under a set of rules known as the St Michael’s House Protocols, devised by Coventry Cathedral’s reconciliation ministry. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/11/take-off-dog-collars-for-sex-talks-clergy-advised/>

BBC

Report that in the 1990s Lambeth Palace sat on evidence that Bishop Peter Ball was a sex offender - 22 years before he was convicted in 2015. Article notes that an independent review looking into the Church's response to the case, commissioned by the current Archbishop of Canterbury, is expected to report back early next year and that the case will also be looked at by the Goddard Inquiry. A spokesman for Lord Carey is quoted saying he is fully cooperating with both reviews.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-36767415>

Christian Today

Reports that Fiona Bruce, MP for Congleton has cautioned that Ofsted could still inspect Sunday schools and other church groups under anti-terrorism laws despite government assurances they had moderated plans. In an interview with Christian Today, the MP said that government's assurances should be "met with caution until it presents its revised plans". She added "preferably, the Government should scrap its original proposals altogether".

Ind/BBC/Ed Business/TES/Schools Week/Premier

Further coverage that a quarter of new free schools could soon be run by the C of E. In a major expansion of its education programme, the church has announced plans to open 125 more schools by 2020 under the government's new free-school agenda, which will result in 500 new schools in total. The *Independent* quotes the Revd Nigel Genders, the C of E's chief education officer.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/church-of-england-faith-schools-free-schools-within-four-years-a7131006.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-36763962>

<http://www.educationbusinessuk.net/news/11072016/church-england-plans-open-125-more-free-schools-five-years>

<https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/a-quarter-new-free-schools-could-be-run-church-england>

<http://schoolsweek.co.uk/church-of-england-plans-125-new-free-schools-under-bold-expansion/>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Church-of-England-aims-to-open-125-free-schools-by-2020>

Christian Today/Exp

Further reports about concerns raised at the General Synod in York that clergy who have been refused permission to officiate due to safeguarding offences are sometimes permitted to officiate at funerals as independent celebrants by funeral directors. The Bishop of Durham Paul Butler said he will ask his successor as lead bishop on safeguarding to raise the issue with the All Party Parliamentary Group for Funerals and Bereavement.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/688219/Funerals-child-sex-offender-priest-senior-clerics-warn>

Mail/Christian Today

Agency reports that the Anglican Church of Canada has narrowly voted against authorising same-sex marriages after nearly a week of debates about blessing such unions at the church's triennial conference.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3685651/Anglican-Church-Canada-votes-against-sex-unions.html>

Guard/BBC

The Revd Richard Coles writes about the *Water Babies*, Charles Kingsley's 1862 novel which combined God, science and social outrage to make the world a better place. The article accompanies a BBC TV programme Revd Coles has made on the same topic.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/jul/11/the-water-babies-fairytale-social-change-richard-coles-documentary>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b07k8fzg/the-secret-life-of-books-the-secret-life-of-childrens-books-2-the-waterbabies>

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