



*Young people at a concert in Warsaw ahead of WYD 22016*

## **Archbishop Martin for World Youth Day with 300 young Dublin Pilgrims**

Over 300 young Dublin Pilgrims left Dublin Airport yesterday to attend the biggest Catholic Youth Festival in the world with Pope Francis.

World Youth Day begins in Krakow in Poland tomorrow. Despite the name, it is a week-long

event with hundreds of different aspects involving prayer, reflection, gathering and entertainment.

Pope Francis will attend on Thursday and the high point of the week is a huge open air Mass with the Pope on Sunday next.

It will be the largest largest meeting of people in Polish history with up to 2 million pilgrims due to take part – 1600 will travel from Catholic Dioceses from all over Ireland.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin is leading the Dublin group and is one of 10 Irish Bishops traveling to World Youth Day (WYD). The young Dublin pilgrims have been nominated to take part from over 70 different parishes and secondary schools from around the Archdiocese of Dublin. Each of them has participated in a programme of preparation, involving prayer, spiritual reflection and practical training, including safeguarding, over the past year.

The Dublin group is staying in the parish of Kazimierza in Krakow. On Wednesday evening all Irish pilgrims will join the young people from Dublin and their Polish hosts in a special evening of prayer, music and reflection. Archbishop Martin, Bishop Donal Mc Keown (Derry) Bishop

Brendan Leahy (Limerick) are among a group of Bishops from around the world who have been invited to lead Catechesis (teaching sessions) with international pilgrims during WYD.

Pope Francis will arrive at World Youth Day events in Krakow on Thursday via an environmentally friendly city tram! In what is likely to be one of the most poignant events of his visit to Poland, he will meet 10 Holocaust survivors at Auschwitz on Friday (July 29). He is also due to visit a shrine to St. John Paul II built on site where JP2 had worked in the Solvay chemical factory. It was Saint John Paul II who initiated World Youth Day in the Church – it is now in its 31st year.

In a message to all those taking part for 2016, Pope Francis said, “I am very anxious to meet you and to offer the world a new sign of harmony, a mosaic of different faces, from many races, languages, peoples and cultures, but all united in the name of Jesus, who is the Face of Mercy. “

One of the highlights of the Pilgrimage takes place on the Saturday evening before the final Mass with Pope Francis on Sunday. Through the night, pilgrims will sleep under the stars with over

a million others at Campus Misericordiae. They will worship in prayer, dance, and song, and artists known in Poland and around the world will participate.

## **Poles arrest man with explosives before Word Youth Day**

Law enforcement officials in central Poland said Monday that a 48-year-old Iraqi man has been arrested on charges of possessing explosives.

The arrest on Sunday in Lodz took place just days before Pope Francis comes to Poland to meet with hundreds of thousands of young people from around the globe for celebrations of the World Youth Day. Poland's Interior Minister Mariusz Blaszczak says the gatherings will be safe.

Beata Marczak, spokesman for prosecutors in Lodz said that "small amounts of explosives, not sufficient to make an explosion" were found on the man. He could face up to eight years in prison if convicted on charges of illegal possession of explosives.

The man was questioned in English and put under two months' arrest, but there were "no grounds for allegations of terrorism," Marczak said.

The investigation is supervised by the Internal Security Agency, she said.

## **Messy Families holiday scheme underway at Mount Merion**



Mount Merrion's Messy Families holiday scheme

got underway at the church yesterday and will run every day this week.

With a pirate theme, the scheme is being structured like a week long Toddler Group where the adults stay with their preschool age children in the hall while their primary school aged kids have fun in the church. It's a natural extension of the church's Messy Church which runs on the third Friday afternoon of every month.

There will be loads of fun, with games, craft, singing and snacks, so if you and your children live in the Cregagh area feel free to come along and join in. All are welcome! The scheme is run in conjunction with Knockbreda Methodist Church.

## **Disused church focus for rural Fermanagh arts group**

An arts group in the Roslea area – Sliabh Beagh Arts – has been coming up with a new and quirky way of introducing art into the rural communities. The organisation has been running for 13 years and continues to find unique ways to bring communities together through art.

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Fermanagh Herald - To celebrate the end of the Sliabh Beagh Arts programme for 2016, the organisation held a unique event, 'A forgotten song' which was a memorable night at Mullaghfad church.



The church is nestled deep in the forest, is now unused and has no access to electricity. This

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created the perfect setting for an exhibition of sculptures, puppets, photography and film. The audience were also treated to live performances by Sonic Lotus, Tully and Cup o'Joe along with local young musicians Louie Bannon and Casper McCabe. The disused church – All Saint's Church of Ireland – was dotted with candles, Swedish lanterns and fairy lights which provided a tranquil backdrop for storytelling through song and quality community arts.

As part of their 'Growth & Decay' project, Sliabh Beagh Arts have been sprinkling colour through the fields, with their latest on going graffiti bales project. One of the North's leading graffiti artists Kev Largey is currently transforming hay bales into works of art throughout the countryside. The hay bales have been decorated with colourful cartoons animations. The hay bales have become a bit of an attraction with many motorists stopping to take pictures of some of the bales on the main A4 outside Fivemiletown.

The aim of the 'Growth and Decay' project is an attempt to enthuse, inspire and bring art into the everyday lives of rural communities. This project will to run into next year so people in the rural



communities should look forward to seeing a lot more colourful bales throughout the countryside.

“Sliabh Beagh Arts are passionate about developing rural arts at a grassroots level, ensuring the organisation develops programmes which are relevant and meaningful to those in the area. We aim to create access to the arts for all, allowing local people to engage and participate. Our main objective is to create quirky unusual creative additions to the rural environment for everyone to see and enjoy,” said Donna Bannon, project co-ordinator.

## **Belfast minister gives thanks after church fires**

Fires were set alight inside Saintfield Road Presbyterian Church and hall in South Belfast, during the early hours of Friday morning (22nd July) and again early on Sunday morning (24th July). The buildings suffered “considerable damage”, the lasting effect of which is still being assessed.

The minister of the congregation Rev. Alistair Bill, who led a short service of prayer and reflection outside the church on Sunday afternoon,

expressed his appreciation for the support the congregation has received, “the church family greatly appreciates the prayers and messages of support that have come from far and wide, and from all sections of the community. We also want to thank the emergency services that acted so promptly at the time of the incident and continue to provide assistance. Appreciation is also due to the kindness and generosity of our neighbouring churches, and to Breda Academy who at very short notice are providing space for the Newtownbreda children’s mission (CSSM) which is taking in the area this week.”

In a previous statement, clerk of session of Saintfield Road, Dr Alistair McCracken, said, “although we are sad that someone has carried out these acts, we are a forgiving people and will pray for them. As a Christian community we have experienced the forgiveness of God and while these events are difficult to understand we forgive those who did this.”

The congregation and local community who use the church are encouraged to visit the [Saintfield Road website](#) and Facebook page to keep up-to-date with any developments and changes of venue.

**BBC News - Northern Ireland's** First Minister Arlene Foster said she was "so sad to learn that Saintfield Road Presbyterian **church** has been attacked". Writing on ...

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36877939>

## **Scottish Episcopal Institute link with Durham University**

At the beginning of July the Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI) was delighted to receive official notification that it had been successful in its bid to join the Common Awards scheme. From September, Durham University will be the academic validator of the ministerial training which candidates for ordination and Lay Readership receive in the Scottish Episcopal Church. This good news is the happy outcome of a lengthy period of review, re-organisation of the curriculum and preparation of extensive validation paperwork.

The 2015-16 academic year has just come to a close with a week-long Summer School on the theme of '*Taking care*' held at Glenalmond

College. Throughout the first part of the week candidates looked at ministry with the elderly, the maintenance of buildings for missional purposes, the need for good policies for – and a solid theology of – safeguarding, and the spiritual imperative to build sustaining and healthy practices for personal wellbeing. The week culminated in a superb Retreat conducted by Canon Brian Hardy. Thirteen students graduated at a joyful Valedictory Service in Glenalmond Chapel led by the Rt Rev Dr Gregor Duncan, Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway followed by a celebratory buffet lunch attended by friends and family of the Leavers.

SEI has also just published two Handbooks for Curates and Lay Readers in their first three years of public representative ministry, detailing the procedures and protocols for personal development, supervision and review during those formative years. These can be accessed at <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/>

## **Cathedral and choral: RSCM's Dublin festival day**

RSCM Ireland is inviting all singers to attend a special singing day and festival service entitled 'With Sainly Shout and Solemn Jubilee' which will be held in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Saturday August 27.

The service will be a celebration of God's saints in words and music. Music will include pieces by MacMillan, Harris, and Harwood, style music, responsorial psalms and hymns celebrating the saints.

The event will be directed by Andrew Reid, Director of the RSCM and will start with rehearsals at 11am, with the service taking place at 5pm. Music being sung will be available in a special service book (which will be kept by the participants).

The cost is €20 for the event and will include a copy of the festival service book, a light lunch and refreshments. This promises to be an exciting day of music making and RSCM would like to encourage all singers to attend; individuals, choirs, affiliates and non-affiliates alike from whatever denomination and from all over Ireland.

The liturgical service will take place at 5pm in the cathedral.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

10.30: Registration (chapter house)

11.00: Rehearsal

13.00: Lunch

14.00: Rehearsal

16.30: Break

17.00: Service in cathedral

18.00: Finish and depart

It will be necessary to book in advance for this event (so that music can be ordered) and you may book your place using the link here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/with-saintly-shout-and-solemn-jubilee-rscm-singing-day-tickets-25773424005?aff=efbevent> Or you can download a booking form here: <http://rscmireland.com/events/RSCM%20Festival%202016.pdf>

If you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact the RSCM Ireland coordinator, Mark Bowyer at [mbowyer@rscm.com](mailto:mbowyer@rscm.com) or on [+353\(0\)85 166 1627](tel:+3530851661627).

## News briefs

**+++ Connor Streetreach 2016** - allowed young people from across the diocese to live out their discipleship together while working with local communities in north Belfast for four days in July. The young people were involved in running kids' clubs, gardening, providing activities in homes for the elderly, praying for others, hosting community festivals and bringing the love of God to all they encountered.

**+++ The Scottish Episcopal Church Provincial Youth Week** - is taking place this week at Glenalmond College, Perthshire (24-30 July). Leaders and attendees will explore the theme of this year's event '*Out of this World*' – *Living the Christian Life*.

**+++ Next Bishop of Tewkesbury** - has been announced by 10 Downing Street as Venerable Robert Springett, currently Archdeacon of Cheltenham, in the Diocese of Gloucester.

**+++ Relaunch of online Parish Registers** - The RCB Library and the Irish Genealogical Research Society will officially re-launch the online *List of*

*Church of Ireland Parish Registers* next week. The collaborative project has taken place over a number of months and has seen the extensive revision and updating of the list. The re-launch will be celebrated with a reception in St Audoen's Church Centre, Cornmarket, Dublin, on Wednesday August 3 at 6.00 pm.

*The List of Church of Ireland Parish Registers: A Colour-coded Resource of What Survives; Where it is; & with Additional Information of Copies, Transcripts and Online Indexes* now includes live links to parish register sources – copies, transcripts and indexes –available online as well as the location and extent of original registers in the library and in local custody. The event to re-launch the list is tied in with the RCB Library's next Archive of the Month, which will go live at 6pm on August 3. The important role played by Church of Ireland clergy in creating and keeping records safe in local custody will be highlighted.

The re-launch will be performed by John McDonough, Director of the National Archives of Ireland.



## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **Australian priest in Andersonstown threatened at gunpoint**

Irish News - Fr Denis Ryan (70) is from Australia but is providing holiday cover at St Michael the Archangel in Andersonstown. He was at the parochial house on Finaghy Road North on Friday when two men forced their way in - one armed with a gun.

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/07/25/news/australian-priest-held-at-gunpoint-in-west-belfast-only-in-parish-for-summer-620684/>

### **Christian Today**

A C of E priest has left the Church in order to marry his long-term male partner. The Rev Clive Larsen left his position in the diocese of Manchester on Friday. A spokesperson for the diocese said, "Clive does not have permission to officiate as a priest in the diocese, nor has he sought to apply for it," and added that the Revd Larsen had been made aware of the House of Bishops' pastoral guidelines on same-sex

marriage.

## **BBC**

Reports that Coventry Cathedral will receive £870,000, the largest grant for repairs to mark the centenary of World War One and will use the money to reface a chapel. Overall, cathedrals in the UK will receive £14.5m to repair these "powerful symbols" of British history, the government has said. Dean of Coventry John Witcombe said he thought work would take a couple of years and is quoted.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-36878392>

## **Comment**

Telegraph: Tim Stanley writes that "the Reformation offers a good lesson for Brexit."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/24/the-reformation-offers-a-good-lesson-for-brexite/>

## **Obituary**

Scotsman: Thomas Sutherland, a Scottish academic who was held captive in Lebanon for more than six years until he was freed in 1991 has died aged 85. Mr Sutherland was abducted by eight Hezbollah gunmen in June 1985 from the American University of Beirut where he was

dean of agriculture. He was released on 18 November 1991, at the same time as Terry Waite, an envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury, after having spent 2,353 days in captivity.

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/world/scots-academic-held-captive-in-beirut-for-6-years-dies-aged-85-1-4185381>

## **S Times**

Report that a priest in Manchester Diocese has resigned in order to marry his male partner. The Rev Clive Larsen, 60, officially left his post as a parish priest at St Agnes Church in North Reddish, Stockport on Friday. Article notes that Mr Larsen said he did not want to embarrass either the CofE or the Bishop of Manchester by discussing the details of his departure but he had authorised the Rev Colin Coward, to speak on his behalf.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/gay-priest-quits-to-avoid-ban-on-marrying-zhdxr3sxxg>

## **Guard**

Report that as school holidays begin, churches are among groups running schemes to provide children with free lunches to alleviate the burden on poor families through the summer. Dominic Black, the vicar of North Ormesby in

Middlesbrough is interviewed along with Ellie Pool from St Paul's Church, Auddlestone in Surrey.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/jul/22/communities-church-provide-free-lunches-children-school-holidays-poverty-uk>

## **BBC**

Report that the Bishop of Sodor and Man, Robert Paterson is to retire later this year. Article notes that Sodor and Man is the smallest diocese in the Church of England, overseeing 45 churches and 27 parishes.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-36865907>

## **Comment**

Times

Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch writes that the tide for liturgical gay weddings is gathering strength

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-tide-for-liturgical-gay-weddings-is-gathering-strength-bqsfnzpdw>

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