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**Image of the day -
Church of Ireland Theological College**

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Reports

Archbishop expresses condolences following death of the Catholicos of the East



Archbishop Michael Jackson with the Catholicos of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and Metropolitan Timotheus during his visit to Kerala in 2019.

Earlier this month, Archbishop Michael Jackson joined church leaders worldwide in expressing condolences with the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church following the death of their primate His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Paulose II, the Catholicos of the East.

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The Catholicos passed away in the early hours of July 12. He was the 91st Catholicos of the East, and at 74 years of age, had been undergoing treatment over the past two years. His funeral service was held at the Catholicate Palace chapel in Devalokam, the headquarters of the Church in Kottayam, Kerala, on July 13.

Archbishop Jackson expressed his personal condolences and those of his diocese and the Church of Ireland to the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, in India and worldwide on the loss of the Catholicos.

“We honour and respect the members of The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church in Ireland and thank them for their contribution to both faith and ecumenism in our country,” the Archbishop said in a letter to the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. He visited the Church, which is also known as the Indian Orthodox Church, in Kerala in the summer of 2019 and was granted an audience by the Catholicos.

“We all remember his commitment to God and the church, to her people and priests, and to the cause of ecumenism.

It was my tremendous pleasure and privilege to have an audience with His Holiness when I visited Kottayam. It is an experience I will never forget,” he said.

Fifth Chinese bishop ordained with both government and papal approval

When Father Anthony Li Hui was ordained a bishop July 28 in the cathedral of the Diocese of Pingliang, China,



Father Anthony Li Hui, centre right, is ordained as coadjutor bishop in the cathedral of the Diocese of Pingliang, China, July 28, 2021. He became the fifth Chinese bishop appointed under the terms of a Vatican-China agreement signed in 2018 and renewed in 2020, the Vatican press office said.

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Bishop Li was appointed coadjutor bishop of Pingliang by Pope Francis Jan. 11, 2021, said Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office.

He eventually will succeed Bishop Nicholas Han Jide, who is 81 years old and has led the diocese since 1999. Bishop Han was one of the concelebrants of Bishop Li's ordination.

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Bishop Li was born in 1972 in Mei County, Shaanxi province, and, after completing his studies at the diocesan seminary in Pingliang and at the national seminary, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1996.

The Vatican-China provisional agreement outlines procedures for ensuring that Catholic bishops are elected by the Catholic community in China and approved by the pope before their ordinations and installations.

Vatican officials have said that giving up full control over the choice of bishops would not be what the Vatican hoped for, but that the agreement was a good first step toward ensuring greater freedom and security for the Catholic community in China.

Pope Francis has told reporters that the agreement envisions “a dialogue about potential candidates. The matter is carried out through dialogue. But the appointment is made by Rome; the appointment is by the pope. This is clear. And we pray for the suffering of some who do not understand or who have many years of clandestine existence behind them.”

The nomination and assignment of bishops was a key sticking point in Vatican-Chinese relations for decades; the Catholic Church insisted that bishops be appointed by the pope, and the Chinese government maintained that would amount to foreign interference in China’s internal affairs.

UCA News reported that Bishop Joseph Ma Yinglin of Kunming, president of the state-sanctioned Bishops’ Conference of the Catholic Church in China, presided over

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the Mass and ordination of Bishop Li. Bishop Joseph Guo Jincal of Chengde, the conference vice president, and Bishop Joseph Han Zhihai of Lanzhou also participated.

Anglicans to Support Camino de Santiago



“It has long been my desire to establish an Anglican Centre in Santiago de Compostela. I envision an ecumenical place that would offer hospitality, learning, healing, hope and love to Anglican and other pilgrims at the end of their journey across Spain.” — Bishop Carlos López, Bishop of the Spanish Episcopal Church

For over 1,200 years, pilgrims have been walking the Camino de Santiago — the Way of Saint James — concluding at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain. After Jerusalem and Rome, Santiago de Compostela is considered to be the third holiest pilgrimage site in Christendom.

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The number of pilgrims walking has increased each year and in 2019 more than 300,000 arrived in Santiago. As the number of walkers has increased so also have the number of non-Roman-Catholic pilgrims risen. Although Rome, Jerusalem and Canterbury each have an Anglican Centre to welcome and minister to pilgrims, Santiago does not.

To meet this growing need, the board of directors of the Friends of the Anglican Pilgrim Centre of Santiago unanimously voted to initiate a capital campaign to purchase, renovate and open an Anglican Centre in Santiago de Compostela. The \$10 million project, overseen by stewardship consultant James D. Klote and Associates of Falls Church, VA, will establish an “ecumenical place that offers hospitality, learning, healing, hope and love.”

In the words of Nancy Hoxsie Mead, board president of the Friends of the Anglican Centre in Santiago de Compostela and Lay Canon of Madrid’s Cathedral of the Redeemer:

“In 2019, 347,875 people walked the Camino de Santiago. Although church attendance may be declining worldwide, more and more people are finding God along this ancient pilgrimage path in Spain. We need to open an Anglican Centre in Santiago to meet these pilgrims at the end of their journey. We need to be there to share with them the faith which we love, to listen to the stories of their transformative walk, and then to send them home, renewed and refreshed, knowing that their pilgrimage has not ended but in fact has just begun.”

More information can be found at
<https://anglicancentresantiago.org/>.

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People and places

Shandon says farewell to the Rev Paul Robinson



The churchwardens of St Anne's, Shandon made a presentation to Rev Paul Robinson on behalf of the parish.

Last Sunday, the Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross said farewell to the Rev Paul Robinson, Priest-in-Charge of Saint Anne, Shandon, and Chaplain to St Luke's Home.

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Rev Paul came to Cork from the Diocese of Liverpool in January 2020, shortly before the outbreak of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Thanks have been expressed to Paul for his ministry during this challenging time and good wishes conveyed to him for his new ministry in Blackburn Diocese in England.

Stephen Spillane, on behalf of the Parish, says, “The Rev Paul will be greatly missed in the Parish. His friendship and pastoral care was an important support for many people during the last few months. His willingness to try new things with online services ensured that the parish stayed connected and built links with our neighbouring parish of Cobh and Glanmire.

“His care for all he came in contact with in St Luke’s National School and St Luke’s Home was evident to everyone and he will be missed by all those involved there and their families.

“We wish Paul all the best and hope to welcome him back when he visits in the future.”

Armagh recital by Northern Ireland Young Musician winner

Julie Piggott, winner of the 2021 Northern Ireland Young Musician competition, will feature in this year's prestigious Charles Wood Festival. She will be performing at a lunchtime recital in First Presbyterian Church, Armagh, on Saturday 28th August at 1pm. For full details visit: [www.charleswoodsummerschool.org]

Opinion

Brussels has its head in the sand over Northern Ireland - by Arlene Foster

The protocol does not protect the Good Friday Agreement – it is a breach of it. It must be renegotiated

I very much welcome last week's Government command paper calling for the Northern Ireland Protocol to be renegotiated. I only wish it had come out sooner.

In the foreword, the Prime Minister was right to set out that the circumstances already exist to trigger Article 16 of the protocol, something that I and others have been asserting for quite some time. I do understand, however, why he would still prefer to proceed by way of agreement.

Yet any hope of doing so was shot down by the EU within hours of the document's release. This superior attitude emanating from Brussels has been the problem all along. As recently as this month, when Ursula von der Leyen visited Dublin, we were treated to the well-worn mantra of the protocol protecting the peace in Northern Ireland. Our Prime Minister, to his credit, recognises that this claim is nonsense. The EU continues to stick its head in the sand.

The protocol, we are told, has two main functions. The first is to protect the EU single market and the second is to protect the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. Since it came into force in January, the protocol has certainly protected the

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EU single market. But it has done so by imposing controls on goods flows between Britain and Northern Ireland that are better suited to an international third party trading with the EU than between two parts of the same country.

What makes this all the worse is that, before January 1, the UK and EU had the same standards and regulations. Even now, we mostly still do, and yet there is no recognition of this in the application of the rules. The European philosophy of proportionality has been disregarded.

The protocol also means that Northern Ireland has to abide by the rules of the EU single market without giving Northern Ireland any democratic say in the drafting of the rules. For EU single market purposes, Great Britain is to be treated as a third country to Northern Ireland, despite the fact that constitutionally it is in the UK.

This brings us on to the relationship between the protocol and the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. Key here is the fact that the agreement constitutes three strands. The first is about the operation of relationships internally in Northern Ireland, for example how the Northern Irish Assembly and Executive work and what are the safeguards and minority protections.

Strand two deals with relationships between the Northern Ireland Executive and the Republic of Ireland's government, including the operation of the North South Ministerial Council. Strand three deals with east-west relations, including the British-Irish Council.

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In its simplest form the operation of the protocol ruptures strand three of the agreement in that it places barriers to trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This does not just go back to the agreement of 1998, it contradicts the Act of Union of 1800, Article 6 of which concerns the creation of a customs union of the UK, which at that time was all of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England.

It was good to read in the command paper that the Prime Minister absolutely acknowledges that Northern Ireland is an integral part of the UK and as such that he has full authority to act in the interests of his citizens. There has always been the suspicion that Brussels is using Northern Ireland to punish the UK for having the temerity to leave. This has been underlined by what appears to be a wilful ignoring of the majority community in Northern Ireland where there is not one Unionist politician who supports that protocol.

I strongly suspect that the EU will continue with its belligerent attitude to the protocol, and continue to ignore the damage being done to Northern Ireland economically, politically and socially. The chairman of Marks and Spencer has already warned that Christmas will be different this year in Northern Ireland, with higher prices and less choice.

No doubt we will be told that it was agreed by the UK – and it was. But that totally ignores that the protocol itself recognises that it can be amended under Article 13(8). The PM said last week that significant changes are needed to the protocol. I would say that is an understatement.

[Courtesy the Daily Telegraph - Arlene Foster is a former first minister of Northern Ireland](#)

Pointers for prayer

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee,
that the course of this world
may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance,
that thy Church may joyfully serve thee
in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of the Church, we pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world who acknowledge your presence and power in their lives. We pray for those who are laughed at or victimised because of their faith in you. We pray that you will give us strength to be true to our faith when it is questioned or belittled.

We pray for our church and our community and for a renewal of our vision and dedication to the work you have called us to do.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of all nations, we pray for the needs of this world.

We pray for those nations where communities are broken by prejudice and hatred, where the fear of violence is never far away. We pray that where human endeavours to find peace and reconciliation seem so inadequate your power to draw people together will bring renewed hope for the future.

We pray for those who have knowledge and power in the fields of medicine and science. Let them not be corrupted by greed and ambition but grant them wisdom, integrity,

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humility and compassion to use the knowledge they have gained only for the good of all people.

Throughout the world-wide community of nations may there be a sense of responsibility for each other and a desire for equality and justice for all your children.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of compassion, we pray for all those who are suffering with anxiety, stress, grief or pain and illness.

Long ago a woman believed she would be healed if she could just touch the clothes of Jesus. May we today believe that if we pray to you for those we know and love, your healing power will also flow into their lives bringing wholeness of body, mind and spirit.

In a moment of quiet our hearts reach out to you in prayer for the needs of those we love.

Grant us strength in our weakness, comfort in our sorry, peace of mind in our anxiety and stress and the renewed hope for life which only your presence and power can bring.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of time and of eternity, we pray for those who have died and are now with you in your kingdom

We thank you for the communion we share with all those who have gone before us and pray that our lives may reflect on earth the light that surrounds them in your eternal kingdom.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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Lord, be present among us this morning and may the transforming power of your Spirit work in us and through us today and throughout the coming week.

Merciful Father accept these prayers, For the sake of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Speaking to the Soul

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

Philippians 2:5-7 NLT

These amazing words form the beginning of what many people consider to be a First Century hymn. They beautifully express the fundamental truth that God's desire is to turn our thinking upside down! Our natural inclination is to seek power, prestige and recognition but Jesus came to this earth and did precisely the opposite. And that, says Paul, is the attitude that the Philippians needed to have towards one another in the church. He wants to see them ditch all traces of arrogance and to consider others better than themselves. It's all very challenging.

The humility of Jesus is truly astonishing. He, above everyone else, was entitled to have power and influence and to enjoy a life of ease and comfort but he gladly accepted the opposite. He was willing to endure the ultimate powerlessness of being hung upon a cross and to

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experience the agony of rejection by his own people and even by his Father. The outcome of his humility was that God exalted Jesus to the highest place of all and gave him the name above every name. Truly Jesus turns all our thinking about life on its head. And that is now the approach to life that Paul encourages his friends in Philippi to adopt. The only way to be blessed by God is to learn what it means to be truly humble.

So how are we going to grow in humility, since everything depends upon it? Probably the most important fact is that we cannot become more humble by our own efforts. There is nothing more sickening than someone who, like Dickens' character Uriah Heap, manufactures an artificial pretence of being "ever so 'umble". Humility results from us getting closer to God and allowing his Holy Spirit to do deep work on our character. The grace of humility will grow unselfconsciously and gradually as we come to love God. As we get to know God better we will find, miraculously, that we are starting to have the very same attitude as Jesus.

QUESTION

Whose example of humility do you find most inspiring?

PRAYER

Loving God, thank you that by your Spirit you are helping me day by day to have the same attitudes as Jesus. Amen

