



Image of the day - Fair Head

Reports

Refugee Week in Christ Church Cathedral raises awareness of those seeking sanctuary



Dean Dermot Dunne, Bernard Woods, Pastor Ebenezer Segatu, the Revd Abigail Sines and the Revd Dr Laurence Graham at the Sanctuary Sunday Service in Christ Church Cathedral.

Refugee Week 2021 in Christ Church Cathedral drew to a close with a service of Choral Evensong to mark Sanctuary Sunday. Throughout the week the cathedral hosted a number of activities and events in solidarity

with all who have fled their homes in search of sanctuary.

The Homing Pigeons: Birds with Wishes Exhibition featured beautiful works of art created by school children in Aleppo, Syria and included some moving messages from the children about their hopes and dreams. It was organised in collaboration with Places of ARcture with support from Ecclesiastical.

The What's the Story?

Lives in Direct Provision speaker series went online this year. Five people shared powerful personal video reflections on their experiences of Direct Provision. These videos along with a musical piece are all available to watch on the cathedral's website here: [<https://christchurchcathedral.ie/cathedral-of-sanctuary/whats-story-series/>]

Two of the speakers, Damian and Selema, made their contributions in the form of poetry. Damian looked at his life at the age of 24 when he was an engineer and had many dreams and plans to when he was 25 when he was living in Direct Provision having had to flee his home. "Please give me an opportunity to live in your community. It was not a choice, it was an escape. I'm sorry for showing up in your state," he said in his poem. Selema shared three poems under the heading 'Three Thoughts on a Journey'. She spoke about her scars and noted that she is "not complete without them". She also reflected on family and the importance of home.

A mother of two children shared her experience of living in Direct Provision for the last five years. She and her son and
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Cherinet Ayele playing his composition 'Journey of Life'.

daughter all live in one room. “All my children know is one room. I know it affects them. As a mother you don’t have a normal life because you can’t have responsibility for your own life,” she explained.

Joyce and her young daughter live in Direct Provision. She said it is not where anyone would wish to be but that she had experienced love from people in Ireland. “There are times I experienced hate but I also got love from people,” she commented. She said it is very hard to live with the uncertainty and added that the waiting time should be limited.

Mohammad spoke of his experience in coming from Syria where he was a graduate and worked as an accountant but

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his dreams were shattered by “this crazy war”. He left in 2012 for Jordan and later came to Ireland. He said he could tolerate all the hassles of asylum but found it very difficult to be away from his family. He got refugee status after one year and started the reunification process with his family who have now come to join him and he hopes the family’s wounds will heal soon.

The evening concluded with a piano recital by composer Cherinet Ayele of a moving piece of music called the ‘Journey of Life’. This beautiful piece of music is also available on the link above.

Introducing the service on Sanctuary Sunday, Dean Dermot Dunne said the week acted as a reminder to Christians not to rest until all had safety and until all who had refugee status had a place to call home. “Churches have always been places of sanctuary and we pray that this country and the world become a sanctuary, a safe place,” he said.

The lessons were read by Follyvi Simon, a member of the cathedral community and Ana Moraes, NEIC Intercultural Ambassador. Prayers were led by the Revd Dr Laurence Graham of Abbey Street Methodist Church. Cherinet Ayele performed ‘The Journey of Life’

in person. The service was sung by the cathedral choir.

The preacher was Pastor Ebenezer Segatu of Birhan Evangelical Church. He preached on the Parable of the Good Samaritan [Luke 10: 25–37].

He pointed out that Jesus told the story about what happened to the man on the road to Jericho, not who the man was. Pastor Segatu also noted that those who knew about the loving God, the priest and the Levite, passed the man by while the outsider, the Samaritan, showed compassion. “Jesus showed that the right question is not ‘who is my neighbour?’ but rather ‘Am I a neighbour?’

In this challenging time we are to be neighbours to those who are in need,” he stated.

Down and Dromore Synod - Called to Discipleship, Leadership and Apostleship

The Down and Dromore Diocesan Synod met on 24 June for the first time since 2019 and the onset of the COVID–19 pandemic. The meeting was Bishop David McClay’s first as bishop, and the first ‘hybrid’ Synod in the history of the diocese. Shankill Parish hosted a small number of people whilst Synod members joined on Zoom.

In this season of uncertainty but also of opportunity, Bishop McClay used his first Presidential Address to share what he described as “my dream, my hope, my prayer and my intent” for the diocese.

He began, however, with the assurance that his thoughts and prayers were with those who had been bereaved or impacted adversely by the pandemic. People have, the bishop acknowledged, “suffered in a multitude of ways and are still being affected”.



Bishop David McClay

“However,” he said, “the church is a community where faith, hope and love triumph,” and called the diocese to the work of Discipleship, Leadership and Apostleship.

“Regardless of where society around us is at, the Great Commission and command of Jesus to make disciples always remains at the centre of the church’s task,” he said. “Nothing negates that, not lockdown, not Covid–19, not apparent lack of finance – quite literally ‘in sickness and in health’, the command of Christ to His Church in every age and in all circumstances and in every place is to make disciples.” The bishop went on to outline some key elements of this work in a parish context.

On leadership, Bishop David emphasised the need for the diocese to raise up, train, equip and release godly leaders at every level in the life of our church, diocese, parishes and communities. He set out 10–year goals including putting forward a significant number of men and women for ordained ministry and training more Diocesan Readers, Evangelists and Church Plant leaders.

Turning to apostleship, the bishop said he believed it was again a time in history when the church must courageously and lovingly speak truth to power. He said: “Today’s world needs a church that will demonstrate in practical ways God’s grace and kindness, a church that addresses issues of poverty, of justice and of social need, while at the same time proclaiming clearly the good news of the gospel through saving faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.”

Bishop David expressed his gratitude that, even during lockdown and a worldwide pandemic the diocese had exercised apostolic type leadership – initiating new ministries, planting new churches, employing new staff and putting in place new initiatives.

“Like the apostles in the New Testament, we move forward prioritising evangelism as the life blood of the church, preaching and teaching the air that we breathe, pastoral care and healing, our hands and our feet, in every way doing the work the apostles did,” he said.

Bishop David concluded: “We build, we rebuild, we move forward believing in the God of the one true holy catholic and apostolic church, a church that is built on discipleship, leadership and apostleship on a sure and solid foundation, the rock who is Jesus Christ.”

Bishop McClay’s Presidential Address is available to download in full at -

[[] <https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2021/06/called-to-discipleship-leadership-and-apostleship>]

Remains of Cardinal Cullen transferred to the Pro Cathedral crypt

Yesterday morning, May 25, the mortal remains of Cardinal Paul Cullen were transferred from the tomb under the altar of Holy Cross College Chapel, Clonliffe, to the crypt in Saint Mary's Pro Cathedral, Dublin. The liturgy was presided over by Archbishop Dermot Farrell, Cardinal Cullen's successor as Archbishop of Dublin.

Cardinal Cullen died in 1878 and his remains have rested under the high altar of the chapel of Holy Cross College for over a century. The sale of the college necessitated that his body be reinterred in the crypt of the Pro Cathedral.

Addressing a small gathering in the crypt Archbishop Farrell prayed, "We come together to bring the body of Cardinal Paul Cullen, my predecessor, to its new resting place. Together let us pray some Psalms that here, his body – together with all those interred in this crypt – will rest in God's safety."

During the nineteenth century Cardinal Cullen made an immense contribution to the fields of religious, social, educational, and ecclesiastical reform in Ireland. He holds the distinction of being Ireland's first Cardinal, Archbishop of Armagh (1850 – 1852) and later Archbishop of Dublin (1852 – 1878).

People and places

‘Travel forward in the spirit of John’ – First confirmation service takes place in Dublin



Confirmation candidates in Taney with Archbishop Michael Jackson, the Revd Nigel Pierpoint and the Revd Christopher West.

Young people from Taney Parish in Dublin on Thursday evening, June 24, became the first to be confirmed in Dublin & Glendaough since churches reopened for public worship. The candidates were confirmed by Archbishop Michael Jackson on the Feast of St John the Baptist.

Preaching during the service, the Archbishop described the day of confirmation as the day of strengthening and fastening faith.

Drawing on the reading [St Luke 1: 57–66,80] he noted that John was no ordinary child and described the debate among neighbours and relatives over what he should be named.

“We have a resolute mother holding her ground against the dead weight and the ebb tide of family convention and tradition; she is insisting that the child will be called: John. We, then, have unfold before us the sexism of the neighbours and relatives appealing over the head of Elizabeth to Zechariah, the child’s father. He seems to have had a stroke or some such, so they hand him a writing table. As soon as he got out into the open what he wanted to say: His name is John, in the wonderful phrase that perhaps only a painter and a doctor such as St Luke could use: Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed,” he said.

He said the story showed that amazing things happened in everyday places and in the sight of everyday people. The Archbishop added that it also showed that a name is extremely important.

Archbishop Jackson thanked all who were confirmed for bringing them together, back in church. “Church gathering, church services at this in-between time can be half-hearted, half-kicking. You have given us the chance to connect with our baptism, with Jesus and with John, those cousins in the faith, in the wilderness and in the city. You

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have given us your hope for yourselves and for the world of justice and of goodness to which you belong and to which each and every one of you will make a fantastic contribution as you piece together the jigsaw of modern life,” he stated. “Congratulations to you. All good wishes to you. Travel forward in the spirit of John: know your name, know who you are and, as I once heard Desmond Tutu say: Don’t let anyone whitemail you into thinking anything else!”

Archbishop's first Confirmation in Armagh



Archbishop John McDowell's first Confirmation Service in the Diocese of Armagh took place at St Michael's,

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Castlecaulfield, last Thursday, June 17. The Archbishop is pictured above with the Rector, the Revd Canon Dr Peter Thompson, and young people who were confirmed.

Children and Families Development Officer post



The Board for Ministry with Children and Families (Church of Ireland) is now seeking to appoint a Children and Families Development Officer on a 3-year fixed-term contract.

The Board exists to equip, resource and advocate for the increased welcome, enhanced inclusion and full participation of children and their families in the whole life of the Church. Our vision is that every Church of Ireland parish, no matter how big or small, is equipped to provide vibrant and engaging ministry with children and families.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Implementing the Board's 3-year strategy, and assisting dioceses throughout the island to develop their own plans for ministry with children and families

Providing or facilitating relevant training for staff, volunteers, clergy and others.

Identifying, developing, distributing and promoting relevant resources to support ministry with children and families in parishes across the Church of Ireland

Developing effective communications, including ensuring the development and management of a database of volunteers and staff in dioceses and parishes who work in ministry with children and families.

Being a source of advice for clergy, staff and volunteers on a range of matters relevant to ministry with children and families.

Advocating on behalf of Ministry with Children and Families within the Church of Ireland and beyond as appropriate.

Person Specification

A 3rd level qualification in a relevant field; (e.g. children's work, teaching, or childcare)

A minimum of 3 years' relevant post-qualification experience;

Experience of team working and strong inter-personal skills

Experience of working with volunteers and staff across a range of agencies.

Excellent administration skills including competence in the use of email, word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software.

The use of a car as travel throughout the island of Ireland will be necessary

Ability to be flexible working hours and work evenings and weekends (appropriate time in lieu will be given).

Ability to work in the Republic of Ireland and/or Northern Ireland and travel throughout the common travel area and the rest of the UK.

There is an occupational requirement for the post-holder to be a practising Christian, able to subscribe to the principles outlined in “Being a Christian” at this link.

The role will be based in Dublin or Belfast, depending on the successful candidate, with some travel required throughout the island of Ireland.

If you would like to apply for this position, please complete the attached application form and send it, along with a CV and cover letter, to recruit@rcbdub.org by 4.00 pm on 19 July 2021.

An application form can be downloaded at a link here -
[[<https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2021/06/children-and-families-development-officer>]

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Lot's in store at New Wine Online Summer21



New Wine Ireland's Summer21 conference is taking place this 8–11 July Online with an incredible programme lined up including:

Two Bible Reading streams from Charles McMullen and Clive Atkinson

Sofa Session conversations exploring big topics and looking at how we can be local churches that change nations

An incredible selection of seminars with amazing speakers and organisations sharing around Biblical Literacy, Family, Spiritual and Emotional Health, The Holy Spirit, Leadership and Discipleship.

Virtual gatherings and fun entertainment including morning workouts from the team at Lifeguards, The Big Quiz hosted by Christian Aid, Fashion for Freedom with IJM and the 'Crack the Climate Silencer' escape room with Tearfund NI.

We're joined by some incredible speakers and communicators such as Jon Tyson, Mike Pilavachi, Charlotte Curran, Paul Harcourt, Priscilla Reid, Amy Orr–Ewing, Johnny Nimmo, Charlie Hadjiev, Ken and Helen Clarke and so many more.

Digital Tickets are £60 for access to the FULL programme 8–11 July and will be available on demand for the entire summer for you to catch up, rewatch and enjoy over and over again!

The organisers state - “Although we are disappointed that we cannot all be together in Sligo, we are so excited to be able to offer churches across Ireland the opportunity to register as a Summer21 Host Church – opening their doors for local communities to join together safely to watch our live evening celebrations (subject to local Covid–19 restrictions and guidelines).

“We have churches registered already in Belfast, Sligo, Donegal, Cork, Lurgan and Kilkeel and ANYONE can attend, whether you have a Summer21 ticket or not! So why not invite your friends and family who you’ve always wanted to join you in Sligo and head to your local Church Host venue 8–11 July! It’s also not too late to register as a Church Host – email info@newwineireland.org for more info and to register!

“We also have a Kids, Youth & Our Place programme that is FREE but registration is required via
[www.newwineireland.org/summer21]

Recital to be streamed live from King's College Chapel

The organist and King's alumnus Thomas Trotter will perform a recital of music by Duruflé and Rachel Laurin,

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streamed live from King's College Chapel. You may join them free, here: [<https://fb.me/e/KjzmqNbY>]

Ecclesia evening with globally-renowned environmentalist thinker

Ecclesia's director, Simon Barrow, will be chairing an evening with globally-renowned environmentalist thinker, writer and nonviolent activist Satish Kumar on Saturday 26th June. Full details and booking here - [eicsp.org/events/event-d...]

Opinion

Reflecting on Northern Ireland at 100 years - Brett Lockhart

Commemorating 100 years of Northern Ireland evokes conflicting emotions. For those who lived through the 'Troubles', the Good Friday Agreement seems much more recent than 1998. The pallor of suffering and enmity still casts its shadow. The diminution, if not complete absence, of violence has allowed a new post Good Friday generation to at times flourish; interested in what happens to the planet and the presenting issues of their contemporaries. Their understanding of what previously transpired is often limited; yet the gravitational pull of Irish history still exerts its overwhelming influence. Politics remains hidebound by a mercurial instability, lurching from crisis to deadline as the spectre of the past demands to be heard.

Just as a fragile progress began to emerge, Brexit imposed its divisive reality. The poet John Hewitt's vision of a plurality of identity dissipated as ancient fault lines resurface. Are we destined once again to confront our problems with binary answers? The rhetoric would suggest that nothing has changed, but perhaps we need to reflect further.

The wisdom of Seamus Mallon shortly before he died reminding us, like the sage he was, that 50% plus 1 in a border poll will not deliver the "kind of peaceful agreed Ireland we seek" is a necessary corrective to other strident voices promising victory or redemption. Further evidence of reflection also, from an Irish government, which talks of a "shared island". Language matters....

In *A Precarious Belonging* published in 1995, former Presbyterian Moderator, John Dunlop arguing against a "siege mentality" presciently called for an understanding of Presbyterianism with its complex sense of Britishness and Irishness as a prerequisite to a lasting Irish solution. Like Mallon the author had pondered deeply, seeking to glimpse a future, where the different tribes could imagine a cooperative and respectful space.

A census that finds a surprising number who refer to themselves as 'Northern Irish'; delicate shoots that may suggest that a younger generation does not feel beholden to traditional paradigms.

While there are small signs of a broader more inclusive vision, the legacy of our conflict is capable of eclipsing all attempts to move forward. For those who have been the victims of a deep injustice or suffered grievously, because of

the actions of paramilitary or sometimes State violence, the absence of truth and particularly justice remains a festering wound. At a time when the message of the gospel of grace and forgiveness could offer hope and healing the Church has itself been wounded by its own scandals. An episcopal voice that now struggles to influence and deemed to be the preserve of an ageing demographic.

It would be myopic to simply conclude that nothing has changed since 1921. While the “integrity of our quarrel may still be intact” the narrative is now more nuanced the conversation more complex. The moments when “hope and history rhyme “are fragile and rare, but critical nonetheless to a subterranean shift that may allow for progress.

How can the Church contribute to the “longed for tidal wave of justice” For all our outward piety the transforming power of forgiveness has yet to break down the hatred so embedded in our psyche. What form it takes is less the issue than a recognition that it is only when the power of forgiveness is unleashed that hope can be embedded and generosity take root.

We are accustomed to a win-lose scenario. A victory for you is a defeat for me. The fact that celebrations of the centenary are somewhat muted is ironically a small step forward. We may be a long way from a society at ease with itself, but, as our greatest poet, Seamus Heaney observed, “if we can find the words there’s always a chance we will find the way.” Let the quiet conversations continue for the century ahead. May an enhanced vision emerge, building on the hope of the Good Friday ‘moment.’ Violence as a tactic

has been for this era comprehensively discredited. A fervent prayer that a new generation avoid its siren call.

And may the Church tap into its deepest sources of wisdom. Bereft of much of its power and influence, it must rediscover the radical spirit of its early Irish saints, offering a vision, which captures the essence of humanity at its best.

David Trimble in his Nobel prize winning acceptance speech, laced with a Burkean realism and wisdom perhaps encapsulated the way ahead:

“The dark shadow we seem to see in the distance is not really a mountain ahead, but the shadow of the mountain behind – a shadow from the past thrown forward into our future. It is a dark sludge of historical sectarianism. We can leave it behind us if we wish.”

Brett Lockhart QC, Permanent Deacon St Brigid's Parish Belfast.

One of a series of articles arranged by Contemporary Christianity.

Pointers for prayer

O Lord,
we beseech thee mercifully to hear us;
and grant that we, to whom thou hast given
an hearty desire to pray,
may by thy mighty aid be defended and comforted
in all dangers and adversities;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Jesus' homecoming was attended by enthusiastic crowds but also by dissenters, who attributed his good works to Satan. That we might be faithful to the One who calls us his "family", blessing his goodness and striving to follow his example, we pray "True Son of God and Son of Man," and respond, "Keep us faithful, keep us true."

That the Christ's church would remain faithful in its witness to the truth of the gospel, we pray: True Son of God and Son of Man.

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

That where the church of Jesus Christ finds itself a minority in the midst unfaith, it may not succumb and accept defeat. True Son of God and Son of Man.
Keep us faithful, keep us true.

That homes of the church that are afflicted with violence, anger, or abuse, may find refuge and counsel in God's Word. True Son of God and Son of Man.
Keep us faithful, keep us true.

That our congregation may be enabled to embrace the lost, the fallen, and the wayward of our community. True Son of God and Son of Man.
Keep us faithful, keep us true.

That those who participated in baptismal and confirmation preparation , may be blessed with increasing faith and strengthened in continued, regular worship we pray: True Son of God and Son of Man.
Keep us faithful, keep us true.

Pardon us, O God, when we are so concerned with ourselves and those near to us that we fail to pray for others. Instill within us your compassion. True Son of God and Son of Man.
Keep us faithful, keep us true.

Let your loving Spirit, O God, announce again the "Abba" word of our divine parentage and our sure inclusion as members of your family. Amen.

Speaking to the Soul

“Those who still reject me are like the restless sea, which is never still but continually churns up mud and dirt. There is no peace for the wicked,” says my God.

Isaiah 57:20-21 NLT

It was Augustine of Hippo (354-430) in his famous Confessions who observed, “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.” There is no doubt that Augustine was reflecting on his own life. He had lived a promiscuous life before he became a Christian at the age of 31 and had lurched from one philosophy to another. He knew how tempestuous and unsatisfying life was when lived in his own way and it was clearly a matter of joy and relief when, through the friendship of Bishop Ambrose, he found personal faith in Christ.

A few days before writing this we were in Devon as a family watching the waves crashing against the beach. I’ve seen this a thousand times but the enormous power of the sea struck me afresh. Everything got churned up by the angry waves. This, Isaiah declares, is exactly what it is like for those who rebel against God. They have chosen a life of restlessness. Sadly, they know no lasting peace. We are surrounded by advertisements which suggest the route to contentment and peace, and there are endless philosophies and religions that hold out the offer of harmony and contentment. But the reality is that though they may work for a short while they can never offer lasting peace.

Jesus offers peace to his followers which springs from a relationship with him. Jesus said, “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift

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the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." (John 14.27) Whenever we feel a restlessness we should always make sure that we turn our attention to Jesus and centre ourselves afresh on him. If we are willing to give up our restlessness and rest in him, we will find him to be the Prince of Peace.

QUESTION

What has been your own experience of Jesus' peace?

PRAYER

Forgive me Lord for those times when I have missed out on your peace and allowed the challenges and temptations of life to distract me and make me restless. I gladly receive your gift of peace. Amen

