



Image of the day - Cork Centenary

The Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Colm Kelleher, and the Mayor of County Cork, Councillor Gillian Coughlan, light the central candle during the Act of Remembrance.

Reports

Cork service marks centenary of the end of the War of Independence

On Sunday 27th June a Diocesan Service, with civic and ecumenical participation, was held in Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, to mark the upcoming centenary of the truce: the end of the War of Independence in Ireland.

The Service, which was held as part of the continuing Cork, Cloyne and Ross Centenaries Commemoration and Reconciliation Project, was limited, due to pandemic restrictions, to an attendance of 50 people led by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Colm Kelleher, and the Mayor of Cork County,

Councillor Gillian Coughlan. Also present were members of the Oireachtas, the Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána, and representatives of civic, commercial, and voluntary groups in Cork.

Opening the Service, Bishop Paul Colton quoted his predecessor, Bishop Charles Dowse (Bishop of Cork from 1912 to 1933), who in his address to the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Synod over a year on, in October 1922, said: The future holds days of great opportunity for those who refuse to be cast down.

Bishop Colton added: Friends! We are that future. One hundred years on, we are that future.



After the Centenary Service were (left to right) Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson, Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum (Ecumenical Officer), Denise Gabuzda (Religious Society of Friends), Bishop Paul Colton, Stephen Murray (Cork Presbyterian Church), Dean Nigel Dunne, Councillor Colm Kelleher (Lord Mayor of Cork), the Reverend Andrew Robinson (Cork Methodist Church), Councillor Gillian Coughlan (Mayor of County Cork), Bishop Fintan Gavin, the Reverend Mike O'Sullivan (Cork Unitarian Church) and Sheila Robinson (Crucifer).

Setting the Service firmly in the context of the challenge of the way of Jesus Christ and of the scriptures, Bishop Colton continued: “The end of every war, the cessation of violence, a truce, is worthy of commemoration. In spite of the witness, contradictions and complexities of human history, the Christian view throughout is that justice, righteousness, reconciliation and peace tend towards what St Paul called –

June 30, 2021

the more excellent way – the way of love: the love which Jesus Christ referred to as the greatest of commandments. And which is entrusted to us as ‘the ministry of reconciliation’.

“Whatever churches and Christians have to say about commemorations such as these in this Decade of Centenaries it has to be rooted in this witness, challenging and uncomfortable as that may be.”

The liturgy was that prepared for occasions such as this by the Liturgical Advisory Committee at the request of the Historical Centenaries Working Group.

The Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, who is himself a member of the Liturgical Advisory Committee, led the Service in which, along with representatives of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, there was significant ecumenical participation by the Most Reverend Dr Fintan Gavin, Bishop of Cork and Ross, the Reverend Andrew Robinson, Cork Methodist Church, Mr Stephen Murray, Cork Presbyterian Church, Denise Gabuzda, Society of Friends, and the Reverend Mike O’Sullivan, Cork Unitarian Church.

A votive candle stand, commissioned from a manufacturer of church supplies in Sweden, shaped like a globe, was a centre piece for the two key points in the Service: first, remembrance when the Lord Mayor of Cork and the Mayor of Cork County lit the central candle during the singing of ‘Hear my prayer’ (Mendelssohn) followed by a time of extended silence. The second key moment was the prayers and thanksgivings, during which the remaining candles surrounding the globe were lit, following which the soloist,

June 30, 2021

Saoirse Daly, accompanied by organist Robbie Carroll, sang 'Ich folge dir gleichfalls' from the St John Passion by J.S. Bach: 'I follow you likewise with joyful steps, and do not leave you, my life and my light.'

Appeal for priests to assist in this year's Croagh Patrick Pilgrimage season

The Annual National Pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick or 'Reek Sunday' has been extended to incorporate the whole month of July. Those who wish to fulfil the 'Reek Sunday' obligations can do so from Wednesday to Saturday each week during July.

To this end a greater number of priests are needed to climb the Reek on one or more of the pilgrimage dates in July in order to hear Confessions and celebrate Mass on the summit. Organisers aim to have two priests on the summit on any given day. Any priest making the pilgrimage will have accommodation and breakfast provided for them in Westport the night before they climb should they require it.

Commenting on the preparations for Reek Sunday, Father Charlie McDonnell said, "Pilgrimage has always been a strong vehicle for both petition and thanksgiving and, in 2021, above any year, we are delighted to offer and extended Reek Pilgrimage acknowledging and giving thanks for the fact that we journey very much under the protective hand of God.

"Each year, while all of the spiritual benefits of the Croagh Patrick pilgrimage have been available to pilgrims from June

June 30, 2021

to September, up to now the Sacraments have only been available on Reek Sunday. This year, due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, it would be impossible to facilitate the pilgrimage on one day only so I am arranging to greatly extend provision of the Sacraments for pilgrims throughout the month of July. It is my dear hope that this unprecedented and adventurous undertaking will provide all those who wish to come to Ireland's Holy Mountain as pilgrims to do so safely and in their own time.

“For generations, the annual Croagh Patrick Pilgrimage has held a central place in the life of the Church in Ireland and I am delighted that an extended version will be available next month. Reek Pilgrimage 2021 is an exciting and ambitious project to undertake and will require great generosity on the part of lay volunteers and priests alike. It is wonderful to be in a position to go ahead under very clear health management guidelines and I encourage all pilgrims to enter into it in a way that makes it a success for all involved.”

Beginning Thursday, 1 July and ending Saturday, 31 July, the pilgrimage times and dates are as follows:

Wednesday to Friday:

Confessions before Mass from 11 to 11:45am

Mass at 12 noon

Confessions after Mass from 12:45 to 1:15pm

Saturday:

Mass at 10am

Confessions after Mass from 10:45 to 11:30am

Archbishop Michael Neary will celebrate Mass at 6.30pm on 24 July, in Saint Mary's Church, Westport.

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

Page 6

Priests interested in assisting with this year's pilgrimage season can contact Father Charlie McDonnell by email at frchaz@me.com.

Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holy mountain, (2,510ft/765m) lies within the parish of Westport about 8km outside of the town. Croagh Patrick dominates the landscape of southwest Mayo both spiritually and physically. 'The Croagh Patrick pilgrimage is associated with Saint Patrick who, in 441AD, spent 40 days and nights fasting on the summit, following the example of Christ and Moses. The name 'Reek Sunday' comes from Patrick's ability to Christianise many pagan customs including the festival of Lughnasa, which previously had heralded the start of the harvest festival honouring the ancient pagan god Lugh, whose name is encompassed in the Irish word for August: Lughnasa. The festival's tradition became absorbed into the new Christian beliefs and locally become known as Domhnach na Cruaiche (Reek Sunday)'. The Reek pilgrimage has been undertaken for 1,500 years and an estimated 100,000 pilgrims visit the holy mountain annually. A virtual tour of the mountain can be viewed on the website of the Archdiocese of Tuam www.tuamarchdiocese.org.

Hospice Sunday Appeal raises £28,683 during Covid-19 pandemic

The Annual Hospice Sunday Appeal in some of the Church of Ireland Dioceses in Northern Ireland has been taking place since its inception in 2014 when it began in the Diocese of Armagh.

June 30, 2021

The initiative was the concept of the Revd Matthew Hagan, Rector of Tynan, Aghavilly and Middletown Group of Parishes in Co. Armagh, and to date has raised £188,988.35.

Amazingly during the Covid–19 pandemic when Church of Ireland churches were closed for periods of time the magnificent amount of £28,683.87 was donated to the Annual Hospice Sunday Appeal by many parishes throughout Northern Ireland. Mr Hagan, who co–ordinates the appeal each year, stated “I am truly amazed at the support the hospice appeal receives each year and especially during this past year when life for everyone has been particularly difficult and with our Churches having to close periodically.

“I am truly astounded that nearly £30,000 has been donated and distributed to the local hospice or Palliative Care Unit as chosen by each parish. I very sincerely wish to thank the Rector, Select Vestry and the parishioners of each parish who made contributions – your support for hospices and palliative care units is very much needed in these very volatile times in healthcare settings.

Please continue to support the appeal and thank you.”

The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd John McDowell, commented: “This a remarkable achievement, given the very difficult conditions parishes and the whole community have been experiencing over the past fourteen months. I cannot think of a more worthwhile cause to support and want to thank also the Revd Matthew Hagan for his optimism and perseverance, when others might have

June 30, 2021

thought twice about making the appeal in such difficult circumstances.”

People and places

Connor / Yei Partnership will formally end in June 2023

At its annual Diocesan Synod, held via Zoom on June 24, the Diocese of Connor agreed to extend its partnership with the Diocese of Yei in South Sudan for a further two years.

The partnership, which has been in existence in 2007, will formally come to an end in June 2023.

The motion, from Connor Council for Mission, was proposed by the Ven Paul Dundas, Archdeacon of Dalriada and rector of Christ Church, Lisburn, and seconded by Lay Secretary Ken Gibson, Lisburn Cathedral.

“We are extremely grateful for all who have been involved in this partnership which has created deep bonds of affection under the leadership of Bishop Hilary and Bishop Alan,” Archdeacon Dundas said.

He paid tribute to parishes across Connor for their generosity towards people and projects in Yei, making particular reference to Mongo Primary School, built by donations from Agherton and other parishes in the diocese.



Former Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, last visited Yei with a Connor team in January 2013, before civil unrest prevented his return. He is pictured with local clergy and people in Mongo village, along with team members the Rev Andrew Sweeney, Dean Sam Wright, Judith Cairns, Dr Frank Dobbs, Dean Stephen Forde and David Gough, formerly of CMSI.

The archdeacon spoke of the many teams that have travelled to Yei over the years, running clergy training, youth activities, health schemes and other projects, and he reflected on the visits to Connor by Bishop Hilary and his wife Mama Joyce.

Acknowledging the support of Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI) in the partnership, Archdeacon Dundas said: “Beyond the formal conclusion of this partnership, we will continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. We

June 30, 2021

pray for Bishop Levi who was consecrated last weekend, and we hope that Bishop George [Davison, Bishop of Connor] and Bishop Levi can meet at the Lambeth Conference next year.”

Seconding the motion, Ken Gibson said: “I have seen how this partnership had benefited folk around the diocese. Visits can be life-changing for younger and older people.”

Dr Frank Dobbs, Agherton Parish, concurred. “I have enjoyed visiting Yei three times. The partnership has had benefits in both directions.”

The Rev Amanda Adams, rector of Ballyrashane and Killdollah, said the partnership had been rich and fulfilling. “Above all it is about relationships,” she said. “It may be formally coming to an end, but relationships will continue with people who have become our friends. We are on this journey together and this is not to be interpreted as an end of relationship – that goes on.”

Bishop George said that Connor Diocese wanted to extend the partnership by this two-year period to allow it to ‘finish well.’

“The idea of a formal diocesan partnership is not that it should continue forever,” Bishop George said. “We are encouraged to take on a partnership for a period of time and we have renewed this partnership on a number of occasions. This is not about ending the connections we have with Yei.

June 30, 2021

“The formal partnership has done its bit. It has enabled people from our parishes to have real and meaningful relationships, and those relationships will continue. We will be seeking to form a new partnership with a country in the developing world once the partnership with Yei comes to an end, and that will allow a whole new series of nurturing relationships to begin.”

Synod member Mr Paul Dundas (no relation to Archdeacon Dundas) asked if now was a good time to be ending the partnership given the difficult situation the people of Yei are in**.

Bishop George replied that existing relationships would continue and that he hoped to meet Bishop Levi next year. “But the situation such as you describe does make it difficult to form new relationships,” the bishop said. “A number of visits have not been able to take place. This motion ensures that existing relationships continue, but also recognises that this partnership has continued longer than partnerships in the Anglican Church normally do.”

The motion was passed unanimously.

**Increasing intercommunal violence and attacks, the threat of the peace process unravelling, and dire humanitarian conditions across large swaths of South Sudan has placed renewed urgency on improving security and meeting basic protection needs for South Sudan’s civilians. More than a year after President of South Sudan Salva Kiir and former opposition leader Riek Machar formed a unity government, there has been slow progress on implementing the country’s main peace agreement, which was signed in 2018 and

June 30, 2021

ended a civil war that began in 2013. (Current information from the Council on Foreign Relations.

The British Foreign Office advises that the situation in South Sudan remains 'volatile.'

50th anniversary of ordination



At St Matthew's Church, Richhill, on Sunday 27th June there were celebrations as the Rev Derick Wilson marked the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh, joined the Wilson family and the congregation on the Primate's first visit to Richhill.

The congregation gave thanks to God for Mr Wilson's faith and service. Having given his life to Christ at the age of 13, he entered the Faith Mission Bible College at 19, serving with Faith Mission for sixteen years, five of which were as District Superintendent.

Derick then heard the call to ordained ministry and studied at Oak Hill Theological College in London. He was ordained on June 27, 1971 and served a Curacy of Shankill Parish, Lurgan, before moving to Willowfield for a second curacy. He then served as Rector of Knocknamuckley, then Willowfield, and finally Tullylish. He loved to preach God's word, and after retirement provided vacancy preaching and visiting in Down and Dromore and Armagh dioceses. He preached his final sermon at the age of 79, 60 years after his first.

An inscribed Bible was presented to Derick on behalf of the Select Vestry and parishioners by Mr Garfield McCoy, Churchwarden. The Archbishop preached and led the congregation in a prayer of thanksgiving for Mr. Wilson's ministry.

Tribute to late Albert Moore

He was a 'friend, colleague and inspiration' says Bishop of Derry & Raphoe

Bishop Andrew Forster has joined the many people paying tribute to the late Diocesan Reader and Innisrush parishioner, Albert Moore, who died on Saturday.

June 30, 2021

“I was very saddened, at the weekend, to hear the news of Albert’s death,” Bishop Andrew said. “He was widely known and widely liked throughout our Diocese. He was one of the kindest and most humble people you could meet, and a man who made his faith an intrinsic part of his daily routine as a servant of God.

“Those of us who were lucky to serve with Albert, through his 32-year-ministry as a Diocesan Reader and his many years of service on a variety of diocesan committees, can testify to his utter selflessness and generosity of spirit.

“What impressed me most about Albert, though, was his unflinching humility. He never sought or expected praise; he was a living embodiment of the dictum: ‘To God be the glory’. Albert never lost sight of that. He was a valued friend, an esteemed colleague and a real inspiration..

“I offer sincere sympathy to Albert’s wife Pearl, their sons Warren and Ray, and the wider family circle.”

Work opportunity - Caretaker

Magheralin Parish seeks to employ a General Maintenance Person/Caretaker.

The overall aim of the post is to carry out general maintenance and caretaking duties within Magheralin Parish which comprises of two sites – Magheralin and Dollingstown – by keeping the church buildings and property well maintained, clean and safe.

June 30, 2021

Employer: Select Vestry of Magheralin Parish

Location: Magheralin Parish

Responsible to: The Rector/Select Vestry of Magheralin Parish Church

Key duties

Maintenance and Cleaning Duties: To carry out caretaking, cleaning and general maintenance duties across parish premises, both indoor and outdoor.

Access and Setup Duties: To be responsible for access and setup within the parish premises for organisations and events as required.

Health and Safety Duties: To conduct regular safety checks, complete relevant records, and be responsible for the security of the premises.

Administration and Communication Duties: To interact and communicate effectively with other members of staff, visitors, glebe wardens etc.

For further information, Job Specification and Application Form please contact magheralincoi.inquiries@gmail.com

Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday 9 July 2021

The church needs fragile pastors — not ‘superman’ priests

“My fragility, the fragility of each one of us, is a theological place of encounter with the Lord. The ‘superman’ priests end up badly, all of them,” Pope Francis



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.

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

June 30, 2021

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

June 30, 2021

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

Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call. It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.

Isaiah 59:1-2 NLT

If God feels far away, guess who moved. Isaiah makes it clear that the answer is decisively not God. Throughout the years people have lashed out at God because he seemed so distant. Have you ever had that feeling that your prayers were bouncing off the ceiling and getting nowhere? I suspect all of us have had that experience from time to time, so we all need to listen to Isaiah and learn that God is never weak or deaf. So when we feel far away from God, the problem is entirely with us.

In order to keep close to God we need to keep an eagle eye on the sins which can so easily creep into our lives and push God away. The problem with sin is that it normally presents itself innocently. Perhaps you are feeling overlooked at work. You don't feel that you have received

June 30, 2021

the recognition that you deserve. You start to feel resentful. On the face of it that's understandable but the resentment will grow roots and start to affect your relationship with your colleagues, and can lead to bitterness and anger. From a small start it can lead to emotions that can be incredibly destructive.

Yesterday my wife and I had the delight of unblocking a pipe in our bathroom sink. The accumulation of hair and general gunk was amazing! Over the years the blockage had silently built up without us noticing anything. No big obstacles, simply the build up of little parts which, in the end, had made the sink unusable. It is exactly the same with sin. It grows slowly and subtly and is hardly noticeable at first. But as it grows it pushes God away and makes us feel that he has abandoned us. Be encouraged. God hasn't left us for a moment and never will.

QUESTION

How do you face up to the little sins that creep into your life?

PRAYER

Lord God, help me to notice those sins that get in the way of my relationship with you and to own up to them. Thank you that you are always willing to forgive me. Amen



