

Bishop Of Swaziland To Visit Enniskillen partners



**The Rt Revd
Ellinah
Wamukoya,
Bishop of
Swaziland, will
visit
Enniskillen on
Sunday 25
January 2015,
and will preach
at a service in
St Macartin's
Cathedral that
evening at
7.00pm.**

Bishop Ellinah was consecrated in 2012, the first woman bishop of the Anglican Church in Africa, and before the first women bishops of the Church of Ireland or Church of England. She was

previously a non–stipendiary minister and CEO of Manzini City Council in Swaziland. Her ambition for her term in office is to leave the diocese better equipped, financially and spiritually, than she found it.

Swaziland is a small country between South Africa and Mozambique. It is an absolute monarchy, and has the world's highest rate of HIV infection. 75% of the population live below the poverty line, and 15% of households are headed by a child.

Bishop Ellinah's visit to Ireland is hosted by The United Society, a mission agency of the Church of Ireland which works alongside the Diocese of Swaziland.

In 2012, under the auspices of The United Society, a team from Rossorry Parish visited Swaziland and assisted parents and local community members to carry out improvements to two primary schools: An unused storeroom in Ingwempisana was converted into a library, and a new veranda was built at St Aidan's. Both Rossorry Parish and Enniskillen Cathedral Parish support the work of The United Society, with a special interest in Swaziland.

Church Leaders on The Mission Of The Church In NI In 2015

In a special event to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Chaplaincy Centre at Queen's University, Belfast, this year's annual Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at QUB will bring together four Church leaders to speak about the mission of the Church in Northern Ireland in 2015 and the obstacles and opportunities facing it. The presentation and Q&A session will take place on Monday 16th February 2015, 6–8pm at the Great Hall at QUB.

The speakers will be: The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh; the Revd Dr Heather Morris, former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland; The Most Revd Noel Treanor, Roman Catholic Bishop of Down & Connor and The Very Revd Dr Stafford Carson, former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and Principal of Union Theological College, Belfast.

The event is open to all but due to space limitations attendance is by reservation only – seats can be reserved by emailing:

manager@thehubbelfast.org. This will be the 58th annual Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's and the first time it will bring together a range of Church leaders rather than focus on one guest speaker. More information on the event will be available at www.thehubbelfast.org

New North Dublin Music Project Will Help Reconnect With Humanity, Minister Says

A new music project launched by All Saints' Church, Raheny, aims to contribute to the social and cultural fabric of north Dublin and to the lives of young people. The Ardilaun Music Project was launched on Sunday evening (January 18) by Minister of State Aodhán Ó Ríordán during a wonderful concert in the church marking the centenary of Arthur Edward Guinness, Lord Ardilaun.

The concert was attended by Archbishop Michael Jackson, Dean Victor Stacey and members of the parish and wider community. The programme featured performances by renowned Irish harpist, Anne-Marie O'Farrell, the UCD Choral Scholars directed by Dr Desmond

Earley and organist Donna Magee and her brothers Darren and Declan.



Dr Desmond Earley, Minister of State Aodhán Ó Ríordá, Anne-Marie O’Farrell and the Revd Norman McCausland.

Lord Ardilaun, a great grandson of Arthur Guinness, was a businessman, politician and philanthropist. He is best known for giving St Stephen’s Green to the people of Dublin. He also provided for the building of All Saint’s Church, where he and his wife were laid to rest.

Continuing the public spirited nature of Lord Ardilaun, the parish, led by the rector, the Revd Norman McCausland, has launched the Ardilaun

Music Project. Through concerts and recitals of all genres of music, choral workshops and jam sessions and by encouraging new artists and new composition, the project aims to contribute socially and culturally to the area and to the lives of young people.

Programmes will be inclusive and accessible and the organisers will seek ways to include those who are struggling financially. As an active and growing parish, part of the programme will be in the area of liturgy and worship. Dr Desmond Earley of the UCD School of Music and Lt Col Mark Armstrong, director of the Defence Forces School of Music will act as advisors to the project.

Launching the project Minister Ó Ríordán said that the culture of Ireland had been denuded in recent years but music and the arts could help address this.

“Over the last few years we have denuded our sense of humanity and monetised everything. Rather than talking about ourselves as citizens, we saw ourselves as taxpayers.

Even now we are talking about growth in the economy and not about growing in humanity. We need to reconnect with humanity in this country.

The project that the Revd McCausland has put so much energy behind to open up music to young people of the area is so important because we need to connect as human beings and music and the arts help us to connect,” he stated.

Bishop Noel Treanor on the themes of slavery and human trafficking

Bishop Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor, has issued a pastoral letter on the themes of slavery and human trafficking. In his pastoral Bishop Treanor reflects on the significance of the World Day of Peace initiative and the theme for this year which is ‘No Longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters’.

An excerpt from Bishop Treanor’s pastoral follows -

The World Day of Peace

On New Year’s Day each year the Catholic tradition celebrates World Day of Peace. Pope Paul VI announced this initiative in 1967. Since 1968 the Holy Father has written a Message for

the occasion, each one dealing with a burning social issue of our times.

Significance of the World Day of Peace Messages

These Messages for World Peace Day spell out the social meaning of the Gospel. They point out the social imperative arising from believing in Jesus Christ. They put before us a challenging reality: that discovering and knowing God in Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God and Son of Mary, gives us a new and sharpened sense of the dignity of each human person, as made in the image of God. This insight should inspire each believer to work for justice, truth and peace. The World Day of Peace encourages us to give concrete expression to our faith. It tell us that worship and prayer must lead to active engagement to improve society and its structures. It reminds us that the two basic commandments – love of God and love of neighbour – are interconnected and interdependent. Rounding off the octave of the Feast of the Nativity, on the first day of the New Year, the message for the World Day of Peace highlights our responsibility as Christian citizens. It reminds us as citizens, who are Christians, that we cannot be indifferent to

the social order. As Christians we carry a responsibility for the quality of life in our world.

These Messages inoculate us, Christians, against indifference to injustice.

Theme for 2015: “No Longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters”

This is the title Pope Francis has chosen for 2015 World Day of Peace message – the 48th so far.

Its subject is modern forms of slavery. In a nutshell, his message is this: by our baptism we are introduced into a way of relating to God and to all humanity that does not leave place for “man’s exploitation by man” (no.1). Indeed the human person, once baptised in Christ, is opened to a new way of seeing the other person.

Being Christian means treating and relating to all fellow human beings in a radically new way. When you read the text of Pope Francis’ message, you will notice that he takes his theme for this year from the New Testament Letter from St Paul to Philemon (no.2). It is a very short Letter – only one page of the Bible. Paul sends Onesimus back to his former master Philemon not as a slave; but asks him to accept and treat him as a brother in Christ out of love.

(Phil.9) Paul points out that Baptism abolishes the distinction between master and slave.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Let it Not Be for One Week Only – Preacher at Dublin Inaugural Service Says

‘The Well is Deep’ is the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2015 which runs from January 18 to 25. The Inaugural Service in Dublin took place in St Bartholomew’s Church, Clyde Road, on Monday and was attended by a multitude of Christian church leaders, including Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin.

Introducing the service, which is organised annually by the Dublin Council of Churches, Archbishop Michael Jackson explained that the theme had been chosen this year by the churches of Brazil and said it links the living water that Jesus refers to that flows through baptism and the challenge of ecology.

The address was given by Fr Damien McNeice, Master of Ceremonies to Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and chairperson of Dublin Council of Churches. He said that this year’s Week of



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Archbishop Michael Jackson during the Dublin inaugural service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2015. Water was brought from the four corners of the church and poured into one vessel as a symbol of unity.

Prayer for Christian Unity came at a time when we are on the cusp of many significant anniversaries when churches would find themselves working together for the healing of memories.

He suggested that people of all backgrounds and traditions would be “held in prayer” throughout this week but he said that it must become something more than just a week of prayer, which once past, people return to their own communities. “Let it not be, like a show or film in town, ‘for one week only’,” he commented.

Drawing on the Gospel reading (John 4: 1–42) when Jesus talks to the Samaritan Woman at the Well (from which ‘the Well is Deep’ theme is drawn), Fr McNeice explained that the Jews considered the Samaritans to be in schism with them but through Jesus going to Samaria, God gathered people who had been separated. He asked in 2015: who it is that God is calling us to gather? Who are the people on the peripheries of our lives? Where is our Samaria?

Connor team facilitates conference in Kathmandu

The team from Connor Diocese currently in Nepal has spent three days helping facilitate a Leadership Training Conference with SD Church in Kathmandu.

Seminars were held in the Royal Stables, which, following the abolition of the monarchy in 2008, have been transformed into a cafe and conference venue.

The team leaders are the Rev Bill Boyce (St Brigid's, Glengormley) and Canon John McCammon (St Patrick's, Coleraine) and with them are Nevin Kidd, Eleanor Boyce, Peter Kirch (all St Brigid's) and Alan Robinson (St Patrick's).

Their trip has been facilitated by CMS Ireland, and Alan has been sending regular updates giving a real flavour of the sights and sounds of Kathmandu and the work the team is doing.

Moderator reflects on first days of Nigeria tour

The Moderator of the General Assembly is on a tour of Nigeria and South Sudan. While Nigeria has been in the news again with further

unwelcome violence from the Islamist group Boko Haram, the Moderator and the church party is over 1000km from the latest kidnapping.

Here Rt Rev John Chalmers reflects on the first two days of the visit and paints a very different picture of the country from that which we usually hear through the media.

"Two of the most memorable days have just passed. Within a few hours of landing in Calabar we were caught up in the commemorate celebrations for the life of Mary Mitchell Slessor. As I write Liz and I have now been in Africa for a mere 36 hours and have spent nine of these in public worship and celebration. The hospitality is beyond description and the capacity of African congregations to sing and dance their faith is beyond comparison.

"This morning's service in Duke Town, where Mary Slessor began her work, was a mere four and half hours! I stood to preach two hours after the service had begun, but no one in the congregation was looking at their watch. Just as I thought that the service was drawing to a close with the announcement of the offering, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the

Presbyterian Church of Nigeria turned to me and said, "this is when worship truly begins!" He was right; it took the next hour to receive the offering as the congregation sang and danced their way through their repertoire of praise. It was impossible, even for a staid old Scottish Presbyterian like me, to sit still!

"Most moving of all was the presence of a hundred twins in the congregation - two of whom read the lessons. Nothing that anyone said today about Mary Mitchell Slessor could possibly match the testimony to her life and ministry than the presence of those twins.

She was responsible for the eradication of the dreadful superstitious practice of the killing of twins and today a nation remembered her for that and for so much more. One contributor to the service said it all when he said, "Mary Slessor had no children of her own, but she gave life to a whole generation.

"After the service a wreath laying ceremony took place at Mary Slessor's grave and I was honoured to place a wreath on behalf of the Church of Scotland."

Sex abuse lawsuits drive Archdiocese of Minneapolis to bankruptcy



Archbishop John Nienstedt (*above*) announced that his archdiocese had filed for bankruptcy.

Lawsuits from sex abuse cases have driven the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St Paul and Minneapolis in Minnesota to file for bankruptcy.

The move was announced on Friday by Archbishop John Nienstedt, who said that it was "the fairest and most helpful recourse for those victims/survivors who have made claims against

us". He added that "Reorganisation will allow the finite resources of the Archdiocese to be distributed equitably among all victims/survivors. It will also permit the Archdiocese to provide essential services required to continue its mission within this 12-county district."

The archdiocese is facing more than 20 lawsuits arising from previous failures to protect children and young people in its care from sexual abuse. Its liabilities could amount to as much as \$100 million, while its assets may be only one tenth of that. The bankruptcy petition will freeze lawsuits against the church and protect it from creditors while it develops a reorganisation plan. It also halts three abuse trials scheduled to begin on January 26.

The move is not expected to affect directly the archdiocese's 200 Catholic parishes or schools, which are incorporated separately.

Nienstedt said: "It must be pointed out that this action will not in any way avoid our responsibilities to those who have been affected by clerical sexual abuse. This is not an attempt to silence victims or deny them justice in court. On the contrary, we want to respond positively in

compensating them for their suffering. Plaintiffs' attorneys and I are in agreement that priority should be given to providing resources for the victims/survivors."

One lawyer for victims, Jeff Anderson, said that the bankruptcy filing was "necessary", and said that it would not stop the disclosure of information about abuse cases. However, another attorney, Patrick Noaker, said: "The process of bankruptcy is not going to make kids safer. I don't think it's any accident that they filed a week before this trial was going to start."

The archbishop said that he and others had been "devastated" by revelations from those who had been abused, saying: "I deeply regret their suffering. I hope to do all I can to assist them toward healing."

He concluded: "We still have a long journey ahead as we restore trust through humility, competency and transparency, in order to respond with compassion to all those who have been hurt, to continue to atone for sins that have been committed, and to foster healing. The filing for reorganisation marks another important step on our way forward as a local Church."

The archdiocese is the 12th in the US to file for bankruptcy following abuse cases that have cost the Church millions of dollars.

Media digest

NI - Full cost of fighting to keep gay blood ban revealed

The legal costs incurred by a Stormont department in relation to a ban on the donation of blood from gay men was nearly £40,000, the assembly hears.

Read more:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-30878210>

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/full-cost-of-fighting-to-keep-gay-blood-ban-revealed-1-6530656>

No need for Catholics to breed like rabbits - Pope

Good Roman Catholics do not need to breed like "rabbits", Pope Francis says, but rejects birth controls being imposed in the developing world.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-30890989>

www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/pope-says-contraception-ban-does-not-mean-breed-like-rabbits-1.2072312?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

www.thejournal.ie/pope-like-rabbits-1891442-Jan2015?utm_source=twitter_self

ITV/Tel/Mail

Reports on the Archbishop of Canterbury being interviewed on ITV and in the *Telegraph* (*following his speech*) which say Justin Welby said the gap between the south-east and the rest of the UK made London feel "like a slightly different country". He questioned whether improving growth would be spread "equally across the whole country", adding that over the last 30 to 40 years, the economy "has shrunk faster" and "grown less quickly" away from the capital.

<http://www.itv.com/news/2015-01-19/welby-gap-between-britains-rich-and-poor-widening/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/11355286/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-Gap-between-Britains-rich-and-poor-widening.html>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2917519/Welby-speaks-inequality.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2917519/Welby-speaks-inequality.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2917519/Welby-speaks-inequality.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

Guard

Report that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has called on banks to put people before profit, accusing the financial services industry of ignoring poor communities. [Speaking the conference](#) in the City of London, he said banks had chased profits by targeting the well-off and bypassing those less fortunate in a way that denigrated human dignity.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/jan/19/justin-welby-banks-poor-communities-archbishop-of-canterbury>

Mail

Report that the Archbishop of Canterbury came under criticism over calling for employers to pay the living wage, after Tory MP, Philip Davies, accused him of hypocrisy, saying he should be getting his own house in order. Speaking on an ITV interview, Justin Welby said that most businesses can afford to pay the living wage. But the report states the Church of England has care workers employed by its Pensions Board in supported housing schemes who are paid less than the living wage. Report says it has promised that their pay will be raised to the living wage level, but only gradually, 'in stages'.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2917590/Archbishop-s-hypocrisy-call-pay-living-wage-emerges-Church-England-pays-staff.html#ixzz3PL0HlpAe>

Mail

Article by Peter Hill commenting on how he believes the Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu are involving themselves in the general election by their comments around the Archbishop of York's new book of essays, *On Rock or Sand?*

<http://www.express.co.uk/comment/columnists/peter-hill/552916/Peter-Hill-archbishops-involvement-election-obesity-disability-Philip-Pullman>

BBC

MPs have approved legislation to help fast-track female bishops (diocesans) into the House of Lords over the next decade, according to a report. It states the proposed bill will ensure senior female bishops will be first in line to succeed current "Lords Spiritual" members of Parliament when they retire. At the moment, positions are filled on the basis of seniority in dioceses. The law, which must be backed by peers, was passed quickly on Monday afternoon just weeks after the Church of England appointed its first female bishop (suffragan).

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-30884956>

BBC

Report that Canon Ian Finn from Haverhill in Suffolk has pleaded not guilty to a charge that he

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defrauded his church of £13,000. He has been accused of fraud by abuse of position relating to church service fees at St Mary The Virgin in Haverhill. Canon Finn appeared at Ipswich Crown Court to deny the charge. The Church of England said Canon Finn had been suspended pending the outcome of the court case.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-suffolk-30880666>

Tel

Report on St Mary's Ashworth chiming church clock in Hertfordshire that was ruled too noisy and silenced during the night, says a clock restorer has invented a device which t brings the chimes under the prescribed WHO limit. As long as no objections are lodged by January 13, then the £3,000 device will be installed and the St Mary's Church clock will chime for 24 hours a day once more.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/joe-shute/11355098/Quiet-revolution-saves-church-chimes.html>

BBC

Report that an elderly bell-ringer had to be removed from a Derbyshire church by a mountain rescue team after becoming tangled in bell ropes. It states the team was called to free the unnamed victim from a church tower at

Brailsford's All Saints Church after she injured her hip.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-30886466>

Guard

Report on comments from the Guardian's editor, Alan Rusbridger, who warned in a speech on Monday that journalism will be changed forever if the Home Office goes ahead with a proposal to remove the right to protect anonymous sources. He also expressed concern that the right to confidentiality that lawyers, doctors, MPs, priests and others in the church are supposed to enjoy is also under threat.

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jan/20/alan-rusbridger-home-office-must-not-remove-right-protect-anonymous-sources>

Times

Report that a Christian free school is to be closed after inspectors said that its pupils risked developing prejudiced views against other faiths. It states the Durham Free School was accused by Ofsted of failing to help children to understand fundamental British values. A DfE source said that the decision was related to all-round failings highlighted by the Ofsted inspection, not just weaknesses linked to its Christian ethos.

January 21

[http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/
article4328367.ece](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4328367.ece)