



Colin Hall-Thomson, Port Chaplain, The Mission to Seafarers Belfast

Sea Sunday highlights work of Mission to Seafarers

Global maritime welfare charity, The Mission to Seafarers' campaign **Sea Sunday** kicked off on Sunday in hundreds of church congregations

around the world, and this year highlights the work their teams do responding to emergencies at sea and their aftermath.

2015 started with a series of shipping tragedies which included the sinking of two vessels the MV Cemfjord off Wick in Scotland UK and the MS Bulk Jupiter close to Vietnam in east Asia – on both vessels nearly all on board were lost – all 8 crew were missing presumed dead on the Cemfjord and 18 seamen were lost on the Bulk Jupiter, with one survivor.

In Southampton Sound in the South of England UK, the giant car-carrier the Hoegh Osaka narrowly avoided a similar fate, when it listed severely on leaving port and was run aground to save it. 2 crewmen were injured but all the seafarers were rescued by the coastguard.

The Mission to Seafarers' teams respond to those who face danger at sea, and support seafarers and their families in their hour of need in 71 countries and 260 ports worldwide. With fatalities at sea, it is the families of those lost that the Mission can help.

In Wick in Scotland Mission to Seafarers' Port Chaplain helped to organise support for the families. The Revd Tim Tunley said: "When

tragedy of this magnitude happens, we offer counselling and support to the families left behind. Of the 8 crew, 7 were Polish nationals, and 1 was from the Philippines.

“We contacted our colleagues in Poland at the Apostleship of the Sea and liaised with them and local churches to bring support and pastoral care to those bereaved. We also contacted the family in the Philippines, and referred them on to our MtS colleagues in Manila.

“I worked closely with the shipping company, our fantastic local volunteers and the community in Wick who were all effected by the sinking so close to their shores.”

Last weekend Revd Tim attended a memorial service in Wick with the families from Poland who had been flown over to attend and he holds a Sea Sunday service in Wick today.

Off the coast of Vietnam on 2 January this year another vessel sank with one survivor. The Bulk Jupiter was a bauxite carrier that got into trouble in heavy weather. It is reported that she listed severely to starboard before sinking. All on board were lost except the Chief Cook who has since been repatriated home to the Philippines.

The Mission to Seafarers has recently set up a new initiative in Manila to support seafarers and their families. The Mission to Seafarers' Families Support Network has been in contact with the relatives of the Bulk Jupiter crew who lost their loved ones, and who are still looking for answers as to why the ship sank.

In Southampton Port Chaplain John Attenborough was first on hand to respond to the coastguard's emergency call for help for the crew of the stricken vessel the Hoegh Osaka.

The Mission has issued [an interview with John on their YouTube channel](#) describing the events of that fateful night.

Mercifully no lives were lost and the crewmen received support and aid from The Mission to Seafarers on the night of the tragedy, and daily visits in the weeks afterwards as they recovered before being repatriated home.

Sea Sunday is held in 71 countries around the world by The Mission to Seafarers and which is marked with services of thanksgiving and prayer to remember the hard work that seafarers undertake by bringing 90% of all imported goods to shore by ship, night and day, 365 days a year.

Old Pulteney supports The Mission to Seafarers Belfast during Maritime Festival

<http://www.missiontoseafarers.org/index.php/media-centre/news/283/old-pulteney-supports-the-mission-to-seafarers-belfast-during-maritime-festival>

Annual Croagh Patrick ‘Reek Sunday’ Pilgrimage

The annual Reek Sunday pilgrimage takes place on the last Sunday in July on Ireland’s holy mountain Croagh Patrick in the Archdiocese of Tuam. This pilgrimage has been carried out uninterrupted for over 1500 years. Croagh Patrick has over 100,000 visitors annually with up to 20,000 making the pilgrimage on Reek Sunday weekend each year. This year’s pilgrimage will take place on Sunday 26 July. Parishioners from all over Ireland are invited to participate in the pilgrimage.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on the mountain from 7.30am and will conclude at 2.00pm.



View as the pilgrims get closer to the summit

The first Mass on the summit will be celebrated at 8.00am and every half hour after that until the final Mass of the day at 2.00pm.

Pilgrims who intend to make the climb should follow instructions of stewards. While it is a custom for some pilgrims to make the climb barefoot, pilgrims are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear and to take care as they climb.

Croagh Patrick, (c.2,510ft/765m) Ireland's holy mountain, dominates the landscape of southwest Mayo both spiritually and physically. The Croagh

Patrick pilgrimage is associated with St Patrick who, in 441, 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. This festival's tradition became absorbed into the new Christian beliefs and locally become known as Domhnach na Cruaiche (Reek Sunday).

A virtual tour of the mountain, can be viewed on the website of the Archdiocese of Tuam www.tuamarchdiocese.org and the website of Westport parish www.westportparish.ie also contains additional information about the Holy Mountain.

The Camino de Santiago is coming back to Dublin after almost 800 years

After a gap of almost 800 years the Camino de Santiago is set to return to Dublin.



This comes with the opening of the [Camino Information Centre](#) next to the historical starting point for the walk from St James Gate in the city.

It was at this point that pilgrims would have started their journey along the route in medieval times.

Traditionally, the Camino de Santiago is completed as a pilgrimage to to the shrine of St James the Great in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia province of Spain.

The centre will be run by individuals who have previously undertaken the Camino and will be

formally opened by the Spanish ambassador after a mass at the church on 26 July.

Starting points for the route are located at different points across Europe.

Many pilgrims undertaking the walk carry a document called a 'credencial', which they then have stamped as they travel along on their journey.

The document, known as a 'pilgrim's passport', is then stamped at the various stops along on their journey.

Upon making it to the church in the town of Santiago, those who have undertaken the journey are given the 'compostela', which is a certificate that confirms that they have managed to walk at least 100 km or cycle at least 200 km.

While many still take part in the walk for religious reasons – it is also become a popular activity for those without a religious purpose.

C of E synod approves safeguarding legislation

The General Synod of the Church of England gave final approval this week to a package of

proposals intended to take further the process of making the Church a safer place for children and vulnerable adults - both by making the disciplinary processes under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 more effective where safeguarding issues arise and by strengthening the Church's wider legal framework in relation to safeguarding in various ways. The legislation was originally introduced in February 2014 following a consultation launched at Synod in July 2013.

Speaking in the debate, Bishop Paul Butler, lead bishop on safeguarding, said:

"We all want every single one of our churches and institutions to be safer places and communities for all people; notably for children and adults at times of risk and harm, whether that be long or short term." He added that along with facing up to the consequences of the past "our emphasis has to be on prevention" stressing that, along with the new legislation, high quality training, safe recruiting and effective quality assurance needed to be implemented at every level of church life. The Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure and draft Amending Canon No. 34 contains a range of elements including:

- Adding to the bishop's existing powers to suspend a priest or deacon, extending to circumstances where the local authority or police provide information which leads the bishop to be satisfied that they present a significant risk of harm, with similar powers for an archbishop to suspend a bishop in such circumstances. (As with all existing provisions this includes a right of appeal to President of Tribunals where suspension occurs).
- Provision for the disqualification from office as a churchwarden or member of a parochial church council ('PCC') anyone whose name appears on a statutory barred list (under the Safeguarding and Vulnerable Groups Act).
- Provision for the bishop to suspend a churchwarden or PCC member on safeguarding grounds in circumstances similar to suspending clergy (with a similar right of appeal).
- For the first time a statutory obligation on office holders in the Church to have regard to safeguarding advice issued by the House of Bishops (it has previously been expected of clergy but it is now formalised into a statutory provision).
- Removal of current one year limitation period that applies generally to complaints

of clergy misconduct: in relation to complaints of clergy sexual misconduct towards children and vulnerable adults there will be no time limit.

- Canonical duty on diocesan bishop to have a Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser ('DSA') to carry out certain functions. Dioceses have in fact had DSAs for a number of years but this formalizes the requirement to ensure proper provision is in place.
- A new power given to archbishops and bishops to direct bishops and clergy to undergo a risk assessment (with it the right to request that the President of Tribunals reviews the direction). Subject to this review, it would be misconduct to refuse to undergo the assessment.
- Similar powers for the bishop in relation to readers and layworkers.

Pope Francis pledges he will focus more on the plight of the middle classes

Pope Francis has said he will focus more on the plight of the middle classes and acknowledged that up to now he has been focused on the



polarisation between the rich and the poor and the ‘throw-away’ culture.

In an hour-long press conference on the flight back from Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay to Rome, the Pontiff was asked why there was so little in his messages for the people who work and pay their taxes.

The Pope thanked the journalist for a “good correction” and described it as “an error of mine not to think about this”.

Describing the world as polarised, Pope Francis said the middle class becomes smaller in that context while the polarisation between the rich and the poor is big.

“Some nations are doing very well, but in the world in general the polarisation is seen. And, the number of poor is big. Why do I speak of the poor? Because they’re at the heart of the Gospel,” he explained.

On the middle classes, he said he had said “some words” but “in passing”.

Regarding the “the common people, the simple people, the worker” who is of “great value” the Pontiff admitted, “I think you’re telling me about something I need to do.”

Elsewhere in his inflight press conference, the Pope fielded reporters’ questions about the current situation in Greece and said all the blame could not be put on that country.

He said he hoped the international community would find a solution, and also provide ways to prevent something similar occurring in other countries.

Asked about Bolivian President Evo Morales’ presentation to him of a crucifix with the hammer and sickle, Pope Francis described it as protest art.

The crucifix is a replica of a work by assassinated Jesuit priest, Fr Luís Espinal, who

was tortured and killed by Bolivian paramilitary squads in 1980.

Pope Francis prayed at the site of Fr Espinal's assassination upon his arrival in Bolivia.

Referring to Fr Espinal as a sculptor and a poet, the Pontiff commented, "It was not offensive to me".

He highlighted that as Fr Espinal was killed in 1980, a time when liberation theology had many different branches, one of which was the Marxist analysis of reality to which the Jesuit priest belonged.

Recalling how the congregational leader of the Jesuits at the time, Fr Arrupe, had written to the members of the Society of Jesus on the Marxist analysis of reality in theology stating that it was not correct, Pope Francis also referred to the CDF's criticisms of liberation theology.

It was Fr Espinal's life he praised.

"He was a special man, with so much human geniality, who fought in good faith."

He added that seeing the crucifix through the hermeneutic of Fr Espinal's life and thinking, "I understand this work. It was not offensive to me.

But I had to use this hermeneutic. And I say this to you so that there aren't any wrong opinions."

Media digest

Ind/Mail/ibTimes/Tel/BBC - Further reports on comments made by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, at a private meeting at Lambeth Palace last week with survivors of church-related abuse. They state Justin Welby said he wants the Church to be reviewed first by the independent inquiry led by Justice Lowell Goddard which is expected to last five years. Papers also quote the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, and refer to details of a new range safeguarding legislation voted through by Synod this weekend.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-33495726>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/incoming/archbishop-of-canterbury-promises-inquiry-into-church-sex-abuse-to-survivors-in-private-meeting-this-week-10383234.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3158326/Church-England-brings-powers-defrock-vicars-guilty-sex-abuse-crimes.html#ixzz3fiLkH4GU>

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/child-sexual-abuse-archbishop-canterbury-promises-survivors-church-england-will-investigate-1510473>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11735289/Church-of-England-could-return-to-defrocking-rogue-priests-after-child-abuse-scandals.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/anglican-church-could-bring-back-the-power-to-defrock-priests-because-of-sexual-abuse-of-children-10384247.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-33495726>

Times - Report on General Synod presentation from Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns and subsequent debate quoting the Bishop

of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell, who said the Church may not be guilty of racism but there is racism within the church and that there were fewer "minority ethnic" members now than there were 20 to 25 years ago making the church guilty of "complacency and neglect".

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4496006.ece>

Guard - Report on a survey on Credit Unions says three times as many consumers have turned to payday loans or doorstep lenders rather than credit unions, despite considering the high-cost borrowing rates to be worse value for money. The research showed one in 20 people surveyed said they had taken short-term loans from payday firms, while the same proportion had borrowed from doorstep lenders to make ends meet. In contrast, just 3% had used credit unions. It states borrowing from credit unions is normally far cheaper than from a commercial lender, and in 2013 the Archbishop of Canterbury said he

wanted to compete Wonga out of existence by offering loans through a church credit union.

<http://www.theguardian.com/money/2015/jul/13/credit-unions-good-value-money-access-survey>

Ind- Article on how before becoming a Church of England vicar and radio presenter, Rev Richard Coles spent more money than he can remember on drugs. It states in an interview with The Telegraph, the Radio 4 presenter spoke about how much his drug-taking youth cost him. It says he explained how he came to turn his life around after he was on the Tube one morning after being out for three days and not remembering where he'd been.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/news/reverend-richard-coles-admits-to-spending-more-than-a-clergyman-should-on-drugs-10383313.html>

Guard - Article on the former HSBC chairman, [Lord Green](#) being questioned
churchnewsireland@gmail.com

over leaked HSBC files earlier this year. It states Green has so far eluded any serious questioning on money laundering and tax evasion at the bank, but that Labour peer Clive Hollick, chair of the upper house's economic affairs committee, has invited him to speak at a session on banking culture on Tuesday. It quotes Lord Green, stating he is also a Church of England minister and saying he will not comment on the business of HSBC, past or present.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/jul/12/lord-green-cant-get-out-hsbc-grilling>

Star - Article on how householders used cars, bins and even farm machinery on green spaces on a local football pitch and parks, to block travellers from parking on grassland, as hundreds were expected to arrive in the village before five children from the Traveller community were due to take their first communion at a local church in Kesgrave, Suffolk.

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/453133/gypsies-neighbourhoods-travellers-wheelie-bins-problems>

UN/Mail

Reports of the General Synod debate on Climate Change. *Mail* says that Church of England leaders declared fighting climate change is a holy duty, calling for a new generation of vicars to be trained in 'ecothology' as well as the Bible and 'eco-justice' alongside Christian ethics.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3160009/Going-green-holy-say-Church-England-bishops-General-Synod-calls-vicars-training-eco-theology.html#ixzz3fqDYZHJY>
<http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/church-of-england-issues-strong-call-for-long-term-climate-action/>

Guard

Further report on General Synod presentation from Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns and subsequent debate quoting the Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell, who said failure to select black and Asian clergy is due to 'unconscious bias' rather than institutional racism.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/13/church-of-england-failing-to-promote-minority-ethnic-clergy-says-bishop>

Mail

Report that a host of big names have lent their faces to a star-studded 'Save The Arctic' campaign and mentions that last week the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby added his voice by saying he was particularly concerned about the recent push to drill for oil in the Arctic Ocean.'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-3160041/Kate-Moss-Rita-Ora-lead-famous-faces-pose-designer-t-shirts-star-studded-Save-Arctic-campaign.html#ixzz3fq7w1Lz0>

Times

Item in the paper's diary section that Caroline Spelman, the former environment secretary, made her debut at the Church of England's assembly yesterday in her new role as a church commissioner. She said that her diary secretary is not yet up to date with religious terminology. "I was challenged over who General Synod was," Spelman said. The secretary assumed it was someone from the MoD.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4496931.ece>

Ind

Report that the first English woman to be made a priest in the Anglican Communion - 23 years before the Church of England ordained its first

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

female clergy - has died aged 92. Joyce Bennett, who became a priest in the Chinese branch of the Anglican Church in Hong Kong in 1971, was hailed as an inspiration for those campaigning for the ordination of women in the CofE. Article includes comment from Christina Rees, founder member of Women and the Church (WATCH)
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/inspirational-first-english-woman-to-become-an-anglican-priest-dies-aged-92-10386482.html>

Mail

Report of trial (ongoing) of former theological student and youth leader, Timothy Storey, who denies raping two teenage girls he knew and grooming a third. The alleged offences took place through youth work in a diocese of London church and a Christian camp.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3160116/Bishop-London-s-apology-joke-says-alleged-rape-victim-Oxford-youth-pastor.html#ixzz3fq9dGBny>

Times

Leader article on teaching tolerance in schools which talks about faith schools and in particular praises some Muslim schools. An article also praises Muslim schools for tolerance.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4496765.ece>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4496836.ece>

Mail/Mirror/Express

Further reports on funerals of victims of the Tunisia terror attack. *Mail* includes the funeral of Lisa Burbidge, 66, from Whickham, Gateshead to be held today at St Mary the Virgin Parish Church in Whickham. It states she was one of the 38 people - 30 of them British - shot dead in the Sousse atrocity on June 26. *Mirror* reports on the funeral of Trudy Jones, a 51-year-old mother-of-four, whose funeral was held at St David's Church in Fleur-De-Lis. *Express* includes the cremation service for Billy and Lisa Graham, of Bankfoot near Perth, Scotland and quotes the Reverend Sydney Graham.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3160222/Funeral-Tunisia-victim.html#ixzz3fq7NEsmK>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/tunisia-attack-funeral-beach-massacre-6059643>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/590785/Tunisia-attack-hundreds-tribute-Billy-Lisa-Graham-Trudy-Jones>

Mail

Report that UNESCO has declared this month that the east riverbank in Jordan 'is believed to be' where Jesus was baptised, ruling that Jordan's claim is more accurate and making its riverbank a World Heritage Site.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3159399/Baptism-ire-UNESCO-declare-Jordanian-river-bank-Jesus-baptised-World-Heritage-Site-dismay-Israel.html#ixzz3fqHK6nKz>