



1,600 Irish to attend World Youth Day in Poland

In 10 days time, approximately sixteen hundred pilgrims from sixteen dioceses, religious congregations and ecclesial groups will travel to World Youth Day from Ireland. Feedback from young people in parishes, who have attended previous World Youth Days, has shown how positive this experience has been for them.

Pilgrims have spoken of the joy and energy of the young Church and how connected they have

felt with other young Catholics at this international faith gathering. In many cases the preparation for, and actual experience of, World Youth Day has made pilgrims feel more involved in the life of the Church, has reaffirmed their faith, and has led to many staying active in youth ministry after returning from World Youth Day.

The young pilgrims will be accompanied by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin, Bishop Michael Smith of Meath, Bishop Leo O'Reilly of Kilmore, Bishop Donal McKeown of Derry, Bishop Denis Brennan of Ferns, Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare & Leighlin, Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick, Bishop Kevin Doran of Elphin, Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan of Waterford & Lismore and Bishop Donal Murray, Bishop Emeritus of Limerick.

On 24 July diocesan groups and delegates from Ireland will attend evening prayer in Krakow. While some of the Irish pilgrims will participate in the 'Days in the Diocese programme' throughout Poland in the days preceding World Youth Day, the majority of pilgrims will arrive on 25 July ahead of the opening event on 26 July. As World Youth Day will be the last international Catholic event before the World Meeting of

Families in Dublin, bishops have asked Irish pilgrims travelling to Krakow to encourage international participants to come here in August 2018.

Bishops have asked for prayers for World Youth Day which will take place in Krakow, Poland, during 26-30 July. The theme for WYD 2016 is "Blessed are the Merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7). World Youth Day will provide the backdrop for Pope Francis' first pilgrimage to Poland and it is anticipated that over two million young pilgrims from around the world will attend this faith and joy filled event.

Irish Churches prayers for Nice

Archbishop Eamon Martin has called for prayers for those killed and injured in last night's terrorist attack in Nice, France.

He said, "The horrific scenes on the streets of Nice once more send shock waves into our homes and hearts. How helpless we all are when someone decides to deliberately and indiscriminately target human life.



I invite everyone to undertake an act of kindness or compassion this weekend, perhaps in some small way to counterbalance with love this awful crime.

Lord, make us all channels of your peace; Where there is hatred, may we bring your love. Amen

Archbishop Eamon Martin
15 July 2016

“Please keep the people of France in your prayers and especially the dead and injured, the families and loved ones of all those caught up in this senseless and brutal act.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with also with the first responders and with members of the French community living here in Ireland.

“I invite everyone to undertake an act of kindness or compassion this weekend, perhaps in some small way to counterbalance with love this awful crime.

“Lord, make us all channels of your peace; Where there is hatred, may we bring your love. Amen”

The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin said, “The human devastation that unfolded on the evening of Bastille Day along the Promenade des Anglais in Nice has brought about countless deaths and untold sorrow to everyone present. This sorrow and numbness are shared by people worldwide, as we take note of yet another event in France which has all the hallmarks of a premeditated terrorist attack. It follows on two such attacks in Paris in 2015.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the President and people of France at this time, especially those in Nice who witnessed and were part of this present tragedy, men, women and children alike. We offer them our human solidarity and prayers of support within the love of God.

“Links between Ireland and France are strong and historical. Bastille Day has long been a day to celebrate all things French along with the values of freedom internationally. President Hollande has described this attack as “a violence

A Prayer for Nice

God of hope,
we come to you in shock and grief and
confusion of heart.
Help us to find peace in the knowledge
of your loving mercy to all your children,
and give us light to guide us out of our
darkness into the assurance of your love,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



hat is absolute". We pray for comfort for the distraught and for peace, stability and harmony in a nation renowned for its principled and sustained stand for freedom in the modern world. We pray also that good relations among those of World Faiths living in France will be upheld as all come together in solidarity to identify with human devastation and loss of life."

St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, is providing a space for prayers for those who have been injured or bereaved in the attack.



Candles are burning in the Cathedral's Chapel of the Holy Spirit for the victims of this latest terror attack and all victims of violence.

Those wishing to pray and reflect can also light a candle of their own. Vases have also been provided for those who may wish to bring flowers.

Enniskillen link with Nice - The hymn writer Henry F Lyte, who taught at Portora Royal School, and the author of the hymn *Abide with me*, is buried in the churchyard at Holy Trinity,

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Nice. Rt Rev Dr David Hamid, the Suffragan Bishop of the Church of England's Diocese in Europe urged people to respond to the attack in prayer. Bishop David said he drew comfort from the hymn's words:

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy
victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.*

*Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the
skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain
shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

Churches welcome NI Secretary of State

The Rt Rev.Dr. Harold Miller, Chairman of the Church of Ireland's Northern Ireland Community Relations Working Group has offered congratulations to Rt. Hon. James Brokenshire

MP, on his appointment today as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

‘On behalf of the Church of Ireland’s Northern Ireland Community Relations Working Group, I extend a warm welcome and good wishes to the new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, James Brokenshire, MP, and convey thanks to the outgoing Secretary of State, Theresa Villiers, MP, acknowledging her hard work and commitment to the people of Northern Ireland since 2012.

‘I assure the new Secretary of State that he and his family will be in our prayers as he takes up this important new appointment, trusting that he will assist all people across our community in building up the common good and working for peace and prosperity.’

Presbyterian Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar, also welcomed the new Secretary of State. In a statement Dr. Sellar said, “On behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, I would like to offer Mr. Brokenshire a warm welcome to Northern Ireland and my congratulations on his appointment as Secretary of State.

“Of the many issues and tasks that will be in his in tray, I am sure that he will play a key role in developing the United Kingdom’s unique relationship with the Republic of Ireland, especially in light of the recent referendum on the UK’s membership of the European Union.

“As a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to pray for those in authority. As Mr. Brokenshire begins his new role as Secretary of State, he can be assured of my prayers and the prayers of many throughout the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.”

Church Times publishes its 8,000th edition

One of the world’s oldest Anglican newspapers, the *Church Times*, hit a major milestone yesterday when it published its 8,000th edition. The newspaper was founded in 1863 but is not the world’s oldest Anglican periodical – that honour falls to the *Church of England Newspaper*, which was founded 35-years-earlier in 1828.

Both newspapers are independent both of each other, and of the Church of England. The *Church Times* is published by Hymns Ancient and Modern.

In yesterday's editorial, the *Church Times*' editor, Paul Handley, writes a strong defence of traditional journalism and argues against the "ill-informed celebrity click-bait" that many news organisations now follow.

"The waters that used to keep so many newspapers afloat, national, regional and local, have receded in recent decades," he writes. "Some independent publications, such as the *Church Times*, have invested enough in new technology to remain shipshape, but many have gone under."

He cites a recent article in the *Guardian* by Katherine Viner, who argues that "a strong journalistic culture is worth fighting for," and adds: "Like her, we detect a turning of the tide in favour of intelligent journalism and against ill-informed celebrity click-bait dictated by a Facebook or Google algorithm - but there is still no sign of a robust business model to support this."

“The *Church Times* is fortunate to function under the radar of the social-media giants, and continues to enjoy the business model that has sustained so many newspapers in the past: a readership willing to pay a small sum to be informed, challenged and entertained, and a collection of businesses and charities who see the value in advertising their services (and parishes their vacancies) to those readers.”

Mr Handley says that the *Church Times*’ staff “never fail to appreciate” the privilege of working for the paper, and adds: “When the Church does things right, as, with the grace of God, it often does, it is a joy to bring the news to readers. When it falls short, it is an honour to be the conduit through which so many ideas for improvement flow.

“On these pages, numbering in their millions, tradition and novelty alike are tested, and, as a consequence, the Church can function as a national and international body, greater than the sum of its members.”

To mark its 8,000th edition, the *Church Times* is providing free access to its [online archive](#). Normally available only to the paper’s

subscribers, the archive will be free to access through the month of July.

Cathedral and choral: Academia Musica Choir to sing in Belfast



The acclaimed **Academia Musica Choir from Hereford** will sing Evensong in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, at 5.30pm on Tuesday July 26 and Wednesday July 27.

This will be a unique opportunity to hear the superb choir, which regularly sings weekly

evensongs in British Cathedrals and has a recording contract with Priory Records.

Now in its sixth year, the Academia Musica Choir which began as an ambitious scholarship training programme for maintained sector sixth form students is now thriving as a semi-professional ensemble, modelled on similar programmes at Oxford and Cambridge University.

It was initially designed by Director of Music, Aryan O. Arji (formerly of King's College Choir) to prepare scholars for the best cathedral and university choral scholarships, but very quickly gained momentum as one of the up and coming choral ensembles and now performs on the London concert stage, most recently with the English Symphony Orchestra, the Chapel Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge and members of the University of Cambridge Baroque Ensemble at venues such as St John's, Smith Square.

All are welcome .

Toccata, a multi-cultural choir from Northern Ireland seeks new voices

Toccata, a multi-cultural is on the search for new voices prior to visiting India this autumn.

Toccata, founded by Dr Sunil Paulraj, a paediatrician at Belfast Royal Maternity Unit, is seeking to add to its numbers ahead of a 10-day trip to Goa and Bangalore in October.

Open auditions will be held at the MacAfee Theatre, Royal Maternity Hospital, on Saturday July 23 and Saturday August 6, from 2pm to 5pm on both days.

"Anyone who can sing" is invited to show up. "You don't have to be a brilliant singer, but you do have to be able to sing well," Dr Paulraj said.

"We are also looking for people who will be healthy enough to travel and who want to contribute to society through their own talent and who will make good ambassadors for Northern Ireland."

Since its formation 10 years ago, Toccata has travelled widely and raised over £2 million for various charities through its choir and medical sections which donates discarded NHS equipment to hospitals in underdeveloped countries.

Last year 87 people joined the tour to India and Sri Lanka, performing 18 concerts – a feat which

stretched the vocal chords of Dr Paulraj – recipient of 'The Golden Rule Award' from the United Nations for service to humanity – and his co-singers to the limit.

"It was hard work but a terrific experience and this year we have sponsorship from a group of supporters in India, so those who join us will also have a fabulous holiday at the same time," he added.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the people of Northern Ireland to travel, see a different culture and also make difference to society as the concert gates will support local charities.

"We are supported by eight professional soloists and professional orchestra and in terms of repertoire, it is basically 'middle-of-the-road' pop and country; the sort of stuff we all sing in our bathrooms."

The group will fly to India on October 28 and plans to perform to over 5,000 people.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

[Christian Today/Brighton & Hove Argus](#)

A survivor of sexual abuse in the 1980s by Bishop Peter Ball has said that the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, should be investigated by police following documents, released under FoI, suggest that Lambeth Palace knew about further abuse allegations at the time of Ball's original caution in 1992. In an interview Graham Sawyer said that the documents released to the Mail on Sunday, show that further information was known. Peter Ball, the former Bishop of Gloucester, and previously Lewes, was convicted and jailed last year after pleading guilty to misconduct in public office and indecent assaults on 18 young men.

Exp

Further coverage of the publication of the [Kendall House Review report](#) noting apology from the Church for the appalling standards of care at the home in Gravesend, Kent which closed in 1986. Article is critical of timing of release of report with response from Rochester diocesan spokesman.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/689360/Child-abuse-Kendall-House-report-buried-Theresa-May-PM>

Gloucestershire Live

Report on trial at Kingston Crown Court of Rev Grahame Humphries, aged 71, who has admitted indecently assaulting a 14-year-old girl in the early '70s, while serving as curate at St Michael's Church in Wandsworth (Southwark Diocese). He was bailed ahead of sentence on August 10. Report notes he stepped down as vicar of Blockley and Bourton-on-the-Hill in the Cotswolds in October 2012 and currently lives in Oxfordshire.

<http://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/vicar-molested-girl-after-buying-her-records/story-29513750-detail/story.html>

[Christian Today](#)/BBC/Tel

Reports that churches are being encouraged to welcome Pokémon Go players with drinks, snacks and access to wifi with BBC and Telegraph reports focusing on a Birmingham church which features in the game. Christian Today looks at CofE advice (see blogs) issued to its parishes about the game craze, which has seen gamers turning up on the doorsteps of churches that feature in the game, which uses GPS positioning alongside virtual gaming as players find animated creatures to catch, train and battle with.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-36797282>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2016/07/14/churches-cash-in-on-pokemon-go-craze-in-the-uk/>

Tel/Times

Reports that the cremated remains of a husband and wife are to be dug up from a churchyard and re-buried in another plot in a bizarre crime prevention move. Despite the long-standing CofE policy that a last resting place should be just that, the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Coventry has approved the move. Thieves have used the memorial stone for the late Marjory and George Griffin, who are buried at All Saints Church in Ladbroke, Warwickshire, as a stepping stone to get on to the church roof and steal sections of it.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/14/church-digs-up-couples-last-resting-place-to-prevent-crime/>
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/couple-s-last-resting-place-is-moved-to-scupper-thieves-99lhb86sq>

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