



Meath World Youth Day pilgrims depart from Dublin Port for Krakow

The Meath Diocesan World Youth Day pilgrims have departed from Dublin Port and are en route to Krakow on two buses, one driven by John Colton who drove the Meath group to Rome for World Youth Day 2000 and the other driven by Robert Dziedzic who is delighted to be driving the pilgrims through his native Poland.

The Diocese of Meath World Youth Day pilgrims are taking part in the 'days in the diocese' programme and will spend time in the Diocese of Plock. A priest from that diocese, Father Janusz, is chaplain to the Polish Community in the Diocese of Meath.

Bishop Michael Smith, Bishop of Meath and Father Janusz will join the 49 Diocese of Meath World Youth Day pilgrims in the Diocese of Plock and from there they will travel together to the main World Youth Day events in Krakow via the National Marian Shrine.

Ballymacarrett Somme Flower Festival remembers the fallen

St Patrick's Ballymacarrett marked the Centenary of The Battle of the Somme with a Flower Festival to remember the fallen. The Festival, which ran over the opening weekend of July, was opened by Sir William Hastings, who started his business life across the road from the church.

Bishop Ken Clarke preached at the closing service of remembrance for the soldiers who fought and died in a battle which lasted from 1 July 1916 until November 18 the same year.



Rector, Revd John Cunningham said: “There was a great response with visitors from as far away as Bray and Londonderry thanks to the hard work and innovation of the floral artists and the truly hard work of the parishioners.

“The reward for all this effort was glorious display of flowers and a fresh insight into a truly horrific event in the shared history of humanity.”

2016 National Grandparents’ Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine details announced



Details of the National Grandparents' Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine have been announced for 2016. The announcement comes ahead of the Feast of Saint Joachim and Anne, parents of Mary and grandparents of Jesus, which is celebrated on Tuesday 26 July.

The 2016 pilgrimage will take place on Sunday 11 September to the newly refurbished Shrine of Our Lady of Knock. This annual pilgrimage is a special day for grandparents and families, and a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the great contribution that grandparents make to Church, to family, and to society in teaching and passing on the faith. The pilgrimage was founded by

Catherine Wiley, a native of Co Mayo. From its origins in Ireland, it has spread to several countries around the world.

The pilgrimage begins with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at 2.30pm. The Pilgrimage Mass follows at 3.00pm.

Each year ahead of the pilgrimage, children are invited to write a prayer for their grandparents. The children's prayers can be brought to Knock on the day or posted in advance to: The Catholic Grandparents' Association, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co Mayo. All prayers will be blessed during the pilgrimage.

Former banker appointed Secondary Education Grants Administrator

The Chairman, the Rt Revd Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, and the Board of Directors of the Secondary Education Committee (SEC) have announced the appointment of Mr Johnny Honner to the role of SEC Grants Administrator in succession to Mr David Wynne. Mr Wynne has retired after 12 years of service.

Johnny Honner has over 30 years' experience in the banking sector. During his banking career, he held roles as bank official and branch manager, and acquired professional financial and banking qualifications and experience including in financial regulatory compliance, giving financial advice, and budgets. He has also dealt with a number of state agencies. Arising from his financial and administrative skills, Mr Honner is experienced in working alongside people who are trying to cope with financial difficulties.

Bishop Colton commented: 'I am delighted, as are my fellow directors, that Mr Johnny Honner has been appointed as Grants Administrator within the Secondary Education Committee. It is an important position that requires understanding of the involvement of the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Religious Society of Friends in second level education in Ireland. It relies on empathy for applicants and their families, and the capacity to fulfil the many technical and professional aspects associated with running a complex scheme of grant aid. We are confident that Mr Honner will make a valuable contribution to our work and its development in the years ahead.'

The Secretary of the SEC, Dr Ken Fennelly, also greatly welcomed the appointment of Mr Honner and looked forward to working closely with him in the running and managing of the SEC into the future.

The Board of Directors has also decided to appoint Ms Bridie McLaughlin, currently Administrative Assistant with the SEC, to the role of Deputy Administrator in recognition of the key role she holds in the operations of the SEC. Commenting on the decision, Dr Fennelly said: 'I am delighted that Ms McLaughlin had accepted the position of SEC Deputy Administrator as her enhanced role affirms how much the Board of Directors value her work with the SEC. It also recognises the reality of the level of responsibility within the SEC which Ms McLaughlin holds.'

Churches and United Nations concern as South Sudan remains tense

Churches across the world are responding to the situation. Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) – the international aid agency of the US-based



Chinese and Nepalese peace-keepers working for the United Nations help to provide protection for civilians in and around Juba.

Episcopal Church – is supporting its South Sudan and Sudan counterpart Sudra (the Sudanese Development and Relief Agency) in caring for 220 families who have taken refuge in the cathedral grounds.

“It is devastating to hear that the fragile stability in South Sudan is once again threatened by factional violence,” ERD’s senior programme officer for disaster response and risk reduction, Nagulan Nesiah, said. “We are praying for our church partners there as they respond to offer

shelter and aid, even as some of their staff are also displaced. We strongly hope that the clashes will end peacefully and that people will be able to resume the long work of rebuilding their lives and nation.”

“The area around the Cathedral was one of the hot spots over the weekend, but the Cathedral itself is able to provide some security to about 1,000 people who are sheltering there. We are keeping the Church and Sudra in our thoughts and stand ready to offer additional assistance as needed.”

The United Nations said Tuesday that the situation around South Sudan remains tense. Speaking in New York, a spokesperson for the UN peace-keeping mission Unmiss (United Nations Mission in South Sudan) told journalists that the agency had received “deeply disturbing” reports of sexual violence, including rape, being carried out by soldiers in uniform against a number of civilians around UN House in the capital, Juba. The spokesperson said that such actions may constitute a war crime.

“Unmiss calls on all parties to uphold their responsibilities to protect civilians and

underscores that those perpetrating these entirely unacceptable attacks will be held accountable,” he said.

The spokesperson also said that Unmiss was “encountering harassment of its personnel and increased levels of obstruction of its operations, including denial of flight clearances.”

Its sister-agency, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), reported Tuesday that more than 5,000 people have fled from South Sudan to neighbouring Uganda since the latest violence in the country erupted on 7 July.

The Anglican Alliance is helping to co-ordinating the response from Anglican churches and agencies around the world to the ongoing violence in South Sudan. A few days ago, they convened a conference call for partners across the Communion to hear from and speak with the leadership of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan (ECSSS) and its relief and development arm Sudra (the Sudanese Development and Relief Agency).

During the call, Sudra outlined its initial need for support for the 200 families seeking shelter in the

All Saints' Cathedral Compound. Episcopal Relief & Development of the US-based Episcopal Church [confirmed it would provide the necessary assistance.](#)

On Tuesday, Sudra issued a second proposal to address the food needs of some 14,400 internally displaced people (IDP), as they assess the emerging needs. The proposal focuses on highly vulnerable children, women and elderly people in Juba, Kajokeji, Yei, Lainya, and Rajaf.

See also -

Violence, fear and looting grip South Sudan's capital Juba

The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/jul/19/south-sudan-violence-fear-looting-juba>

Cathedral and choral: Royal College of Music commissions new organ

The Royal College of Music has commissioned a new organ for the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall from Flentrop Orgelbouw.

The new instrument is due to be completed in January 2018 and will replace the current organ, which is more than 100 years old.

Built in Amsterdam and London, the instrument will be encased in solid oak and will consist of 34 stops over three manuals and pedals.

The pipes will be sand-casted and the keyboard will have suspended mechanical action. The wind supply will be provided by two large V-fold bellows and the voicing will be based on relatively low wind pressure in order to achieve a 'warm, elegant and prominent sound'.

RCM director Professor Colin Lawson said he was 'delighted' that RCM students would 'benefit from the wealth of experience and fine craftsmanship of Flentrop Orgelbouw'.

RCM organ students currently have access to the conservatoire's collection of mechanical action instruments, including a 34-stop three-manual organ by JW Walker, and also have the opportunity to perform and have lessons on organs outside the RCM.

The new organ will be named after Johnny Huang, the inaugural founding patron of the

RCM's '[More Music](#)' project (which aims to increase access to the RCM's South Kensington campus and strengthen its facilities).

News briefs

+++ Limavady students Kenya insights -

Limavady Grammar School Team have returned safe and well after 2 and half weeks in Kenya, CMS Ireland reports. One of the students, James Miller blogged - I absolutely loved my trip to Kenya along with the rest of the team from LGS. It was the trip of a lifetime! I found the work at the girls' school rewarding, especially learning about the girls' home lives and how they find school in Kenya.

Some of the highlights of the trip were the visit to the elephant orphanage in Nairobi; the trip to Oltiasika where we donated sports equipment to the boys and girls of four local primary schools; the stay at Amboseli National Park where we enjoyed a safari and a luxury overnight stay at Serena Lodge. I feel this experience of Kenya and Maasai culture has changed my outlook on everyday life and has made me more appreciative of the small things we take for granted.

+++ C of I Church Fabric Fund applications -

The application process for the latest rounds of the Marshall Beresford and Church Fabric Funds is now open. The closing date is October 1. The Marshall Beresford Fund and Church Fabric Fund are held towards the building or repair of churches or chapels. The grants from the Marshall Beresford Fund and the Church Fabric Fund are allocated half-yearly in April and November. If a parish is awarded a grant, it will be allocated from either the Marshall Beresford Fund or the Church Fabric Fund and not from both funds. Grants are usually not allocated towards a project until the half-year after the proposed completion date for the works relevant to the grant application. Application forms are available from: Mr Ian Walshe, Property Department, Representative Church Body, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 CF67. (Tel: 01-4125 619; Email: ian.walshe@rcbdub.org)

+++ Human rights 'in peril' in Turkey following attempted coup - Human rights in Turkey are in peril following the coup attempt which resulted in the deaths of at least 208 people and almost 8,000 arrests, says Amnesty International.

+++ New report shows persistence of hunger in 21st century UK

The *#stillhungry* report published today by the West Cheshire Foodbank, demonstrates the persistence of hunger in 21st century Britain, where one in three people receiving emergency food is a child.

+++ UN chief urges solidarity to combat effects of El Niño - The lives and livelihoods of more than 60 million people around the world have been turned upside down by the extreme weather events linked to the El Niño phenomenon, the UN Secretary-General said yesterday, calling for a scaled-up, unprecedented response that goes beyond humanitarian action.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Child homelessness has increased by 37% in six months

The Journal

<http://www.thejournal.ie/homeless-families-2-2886087-Jul2016/>

Gardaí with young families 'relying on charity handouts' to pay their bills

The Journal

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

<http://www.thejournal.ie/gardai-protest-2885204-Jul2016/>

Violence, fear and looting grip South Sudan's capital Juba

The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/jul/19/south-sudan-violence-fear-looting-juba>

BBC/Tel/Guard/Exp/Even Stand/Metro/Mail/Christian Today/ITV/Premier

Reports that a Syrian family taken in by the UK are living in an empty cottage in the grounds of Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop of Canterbury has said (see above). Archbishop Justin said it was an "enormous privilege" to house the family, as he helped launch a Home Office scheme to encourage community groups to sponsor refugee families coming to the country. The UK has said it will take in 20,000 vulnerable refugees from Syria by 2020. Launched by the new Home Secretary Amber Rudd, the scheme is designed to make it easier for churches, charities, faith groups and businesses to help support refugees attempting to restart their lives in the UK.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36837983>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/19/churches-and-families-urged-to-house-syrian-refugees-by-archbish/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/19/archbishop-of-canterbury-syrian-family-refugee-sponsorship-scheme>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/691155/Government-20-000-Syrians-UK-Vulnerable-Persons-Resettlement-Scheme-Help-refugees>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/refugee-family-to-be-housed-in-the-grounds-of-lambeth-palace-a3299471.html>

<http://metro.co.uk/2016/07/19/family-of-refugees-moves-into-archbishop-of-canterburys-palace-6016458/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3697516/Refugee-family-moves-archbishops-London-palace.html>

<http://www.itv.com/news/2016-07-19/amber-rudd-eu-nationals-right-to-stay-post-brexit/>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-and-Home-Secretary-launch-refugee-resettlement-programme>

Times/Christian Today

Reports that the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres announced yesterday that he will retire in February after more than 20 years in the post. The paper speculates that Bishop Richard's announcement will open the door for the first woman to be appointed to one of the C of E's

highest offices. In a separate diary item in the *Times*, Bishop Richard is quoted saying, “It is right that someone who began as a primary school ink monitor should give way to a new Bishop of London more at home in the digital world”.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/door-opens-for-women-as-bishop-of-london-retires-q3fm5sg3r>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-phantoms-of-whitehall-rl3gfjvcd>

Christian Today

Reports that England has become more divided since the vote to leave the European Union, according to new research. The data commissioned by the anti-racism charity HOPE not Hate shows the gap between those in favour of immigration and those opposed has widened since the referendum result. However the figures also show a trend towards England being more tolerant and welcoming since Brexit. The research suggests that despite a rise in the number of racist incidents immediately after the referendum results, attitudes towards immigrant communities has improved.

BBC/Mail

Reports that Anglican churches have been urged to welcome players of Pokemon Go who use their premises as Pokestops. The online game - involves finding virtual Pokemon characters in various real locations. Several churches have been designated as Pokestops, which players visit to collect items during the game. The CofE has said the game gives church communities a chance to meet more local people. The *Mail* highlights the guidance from the C of E in an article critical that the game uses sites such as the Centaph in Whitehall.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36806795>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3698362/Now-CENOTAPH-defiled-Pokemon-ROBERT-HARDMAN-asks-sacred-Nintendo-game-craze-includes-Britain-s-monument-Glorious-Dead-makers-couldn-t-care-less.html>

Premier

Further coverage of Lord Williams' call for urgent action to end the civil war in South Sudan which has already claimed more than 300 lives this month. Dr Rowan Williams, Chairman of Christian Aid, is urging political leaders to do whatever is necessary to end the violence as soon as possible and is calling the Church to pray for an end to the conflict.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/Rowan-Williams-calls-for-urgent-action-to-end-South-Sudan-conflict>

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