



***Pope Francis enters the gate to Auschwitz yesterday- report below.***

## **Launch of major resource for C of I parish records**

At a reception in St Audoen's parish church, Dublin, at 6pm, Wednesday, 3rd August 2016, the Director of the National Archives, John McDonough, will launch *The List of Church of Ireland Parish Registers*: an online colour-coded

resource featuring live links to other relevant online resources.

The list accounts for all Church of Ireland parochial registers of baptism, marriage and burial – noting what survives, the dates covered, and where they are located. Where registers were destroyed in the burning of the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI) during the Irish Civil War in 1922, the list records details about abstracts, transcripts and where they are held.

The original list was the work of Margaret Griffith, Deputy Keeper at PROI, who in the 1950s used extant parochial returns (dating from the 1870s) to compile a hand list of Church of Ireland parish registers known to exist in 1922. In the ensuing decades the list was heavily annotated by PROI staff with notes about abstracts, transcripts and locations of microfilms. Latterly, from 1984 onwards, when the RCB Library was designated as the official place of deposit for Church of Ireland registers in the Republic of Ireland, the updating of the list was carried out by Library staff in conjunction with the National Archives and the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland.

The new online version of the list interpolates all previous work into an accessible, colour-coded resource. Additionally, it now includes live links to other websites holding indexes, transcripts and scanned images of parish registers. Ultimately the list will further link to the RCB Library's detailed in-house hand lists of the collections of parochial records – including the registers but also the wide variety of other records such as vestry minute books, preachers' books, accounts and magazines.

In producing this new resource, the RCB Library has collaborated with the Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS) as a project to celebrate the latter's 80th anniversary. Widely known for her online genealogy blog, *Irish Genealogy News*, Claire Santry, a Fellow of the IGRS, painstakingly reworked the list to create a one-stop search tool that links easily to online information.

IGRS Chairman Steven Smyrl will say: "Parish registers are a vital tool to genealogists and the loss of so many in 1922 has been an ever-present handicap. This new online resource, highlighting the existence of so many surviving registers, along with abstracts and copies of

those that do not, will prove invaluable. Its launch today is a terrific way to mark the IGRS' 80th anniversary.”

Dr Susan Hood, Librarian and Archivist at the RCB Library, will say: “For a small record repository like the RCB Library, collaboration with committed organisations like the IGRS whose volunteer members have such an interest in Church of Ireland records (most especially the parish registers) is positive and rewarding.” She will thank Claire Santry who had worked so hard on the project and express the hope that there will “future opportunities to work so constructively for mutual benefit.”

## **Battle of Britain presentation on the Donegal Spitfire**

To commemorate the Battle of Britain, and the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Spitfire, The Men's Society of St Mary's Church in Macosquin is hosting a public presentation Friday September 16 at 7.30pm in which the story will be told about one of those remarkable WW2 aircraft which crash-landed on the Innishowen Peninsula, Co Donegal.

In his talk, Jonny McNee will describe the fascinating events behind his discovery and excavation in 2011 of Pilot Officer Roland 'Bud' Wolfe's Spitfire P8074 from deep beneath the peat bog of Glenshinny mountain, on the Innishowen Peninsula.

The aircraft saw combat towards the end of the Battle of Britain, before being transferred to 133 (Eagle) Squadron RAF in mid 1941, where it was based for a short time at RAF Eglinton – now the City of Derry Airport.

This Spitfire was a war-time gift of successful Canadian businessman Garfield Weston. The incredible state of preservation of the iconic fighter and the firing of one of its recovered Browning machine guns – watched by over a million people on the BBC website in a documentary presented by Dan Snow - catapulted the P8074 story onto a global stage.

The discovery and excavation of Spitfire P8074 was recorded as part of the groundbreaking BBC NI series 'Dig WW2' first broadcast in Spring 2012.

Significant items recovered from the dig will be on display. Copies of Mr McNee's book 'The Story of the Donegal Spitfire' (£9.95) will also be available to purchase on the night.

A light upper will be served after the presentation

Tickets (priced at £5) can be obtained in Coleraine from Homemakers' Discount, and Buchanan jewellers Kingsgate Street, in Limavady from Norman Hunter's Butchers, Main Street, and in Macosquin from the Parish Office, or by telephoning 07977 239863.

A substantial donation from the proceeds will be given to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

## **Pope Francis makes a silent visit to Auschwitz**

Pope Francis paid a sombre visit to the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau yesterday, becoming the third consecutive pontiff to make the pilgrimage to the place where Adolf Hitler's forces killed more than a million people, most of them Jews.

Wearing white robe and skullcap, Francis walked slowly beneath the notorious gate at Auschwitz bearing the cynical words “Arbeit Macht Frei”. He was then transported on a small car past barracks and brought to a spot in front, where he sat on a bench, his head bent for many long moments in contemplation and prayer.

As an Argentine, he is the first pope to visit who did not himself live himself through the brutality of World War II on Europe’s soil.

Both of his predecessors had a personal historical connection to the site, with the first, St John Paul II, coming from Poland and himself a witness to the unspeakable suffering inflicted on his nation during the German occupation.

John Paul II’s visit in 1979 made history and was part of the Vatican’s historical efforts at reconciliation with Jews. Pope Benedict XVI, who visited in 2006, was a German who served in the Hitler Youth for a time as a teenager.

Francis is a pope hailing from afar. His visit therefore helps to underline the universal importance of a site that in recent years has drawn ever more visitors from around the world.

Vatican and Polish Church officials said earlier that he would express his sorrow in silence at the site, mourning the victims in quiet prayer and meditation.

Francis had been scheduled to fly from Kraków to Oświęcim, the small town where the former death camp is located, but due to bad weather traveled the 40 miles by car instead.

It is his third day of a five-day visit to Poland that includes meetings with young pilgrims taking part in World Youth Day, a global youth celebration.

## News briefs

**+++ Appointments in Galway, Killaloe and Ossuary dioceses** - In a series of announcements made yesterday in Rome, Pope Francis has: Appointed Father Fintan Monahan as Bishop of Killaloe; Accepted the resignation on health grounds and on medical advice of Bishop Martin Drennan, Bishop of Galway and Kilmaduagh and Apostolic Administrator of Kilfenora; Accepted the resignation on health grounds of Bishop Seamus Freeman SAC, Bishop of Ossory





***Pope Francis has appointed Tuam-based priest Fr Fintan Monahan as the new Bishop of Killaloe.***

**+++ 100 Days event: 'Healing, Honour & Hope, What Next?'** - This Monday, 1st August at 7pm, 'Healing, Honour & Hope What Next?' is happening at the Duncairn Cultural and Arts Centre, Antrim Road Belfast. This event follows on from our 100 days project and is part of the Féile an Phobail. Rev Heather Morris will chair the discussion between Sir Jeffrey Donaldson and Declan Kearney, the national chair of Sinn Féin. See **here for more details.**

**+++ Hoping for separate Anglican province in Sudan** - Anglicans in Sudan are waiting to hear if they will become a new, separate province of the Communion after a team led by the secretary general visited the country on a fact-finding trip.

**+++ Black Lives Matter church banner contentious and conversational** -The decision to display a Black Lives Matter banner above the parish hall entrance did not come easily for the leadership of Calvary Episcopal Church, a historically black church with a reputation for social justice and action on the U.S. capital's northeast side. "Some folks have taken offence to it ... and I think some people really appreciate it," said the Rev. Peter Jarrett-Schell, Calvary's rector The decision was "contentious" and "not unanimous," he said. "It's also been an opportunity for conversation."

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

**Ballymena: Romanian priest takes cleaning job to make ends meet**

BBC News

A priest who moved to Northern Ireland from Romania works part time as a cleaner because he says he does not earn enough to support himself through ministry.  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36916391>

## **Church did not consent to model shoot at Newry Cathedral**

News Letter

A leading clergyman has told the News Letter he gave “no consent” for his place of worship to be used in a cosmetics promotion campaign featuring scantily-clad models.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/catholic-cleric-we-d-never-have-approved-make-up-pr-campaign-1-7500003>

## **Protestants more confident in NI Public Prosecution Service**

News Letter

Protestants are slightly more inclined than Catholics to believe the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) acts in a fair and impartial way.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/protestants-have-marginally-more-faith-in-pps-than-catholics-figures-1-7500171>

## **York Post**

Reports that the Archbishop of York will will preach and preside at a Celebration Communion Service at St Michael the Archangel's in Markington, to mark Wilberforce Day, in a church that was commissioned by Wilberforce's son. Archbishop Sentamu said, "It took Wilberforce, and his companions 18 years of continuous parliamentary activity before they saw results. Wilberforce's deep trust in Christ, persistence, courage

and determination to transform the lives of many is a wonderful example that should inspire us all today to make a difference."

### **Bradford Telegraph & Argus**

Reports that police have confirmed they are investigating an historical rape claim against a vicar. The victim, who is now a priest, alleges he was repeatedly raped at the age of 16 by in Bradford in 1984. He also alleges that he told a number of senior clergy and they failed to act.

Responding to the allegation, a spokeswoman for the Diocese of Sheffield: "The Diocese of Sheffield takes the safeguarding and protection of children and vulnerable adults very seriously indeed. We are, of course, unable to comment on the detail of live investigations and complaints. However if this complaint goes forward, our bishops will make a full response to the various allegations made in due course."

**Church Times** - Reports that the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) has begun a "rapid evidence assessment" as part of its investigation into the Anglican Churches in England and Wales. The Inquiry's research team was sifting through information and evidence from 114 different sources. Among them was the Archbishops' Council, which had supplied over 7000 items of evidence relating to the diocese of Chichester and the case of Bishop Peter Ball, which are being used as case studies by the Inquiry. The C of E's national safeguarding adviser Graham Tilby is quoted.

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2016/29-july/news/uk/goddard-inquiry-begins-to-sift-through-church-s-evidence>

**Mail** - Reports that the number of children growing up in homes in which nobody has a job has fallen by 170,000 in a single year to the lowest total on record. The reduction follows a string of reforms introduced by Ex-Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith to reduce the size of the welfare system. The article recalls that in 2011 Bishops sitting in the Lords threatened to vote against plans aimed at capping the maximum sum a household could receive in benefits at £26,000.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3711734/Triumph-IDS-jobless-families-fall-record-low.html>

**Times** - Diary item about Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London and his predecessor, Jim Thompson.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/a-withering-from-the-vine-x22n73s5j>

**BBC** - Reports that the funeral of a woman who was the UK's oldest person until her death at the age of 113 will take place later. Gladys Hooper, who was born in the same year the

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

Wright brothers first took to the air, died at a nursing home in Ryde, Isle of Wight, on 9 July. A bell will be rung 113 times at All Saints' church on the island in her memory.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-36914310>

**Christian Today** - Reports that a new \$5 million Anglican Centre is to be built in Spain in Santiago de Compostela, the end of the world-famous pilgrimage route *the Way of St James*. The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain, which is part of the Anglican Community under the authority of the Archbishop of Canterbury, is to begin fundraising with the help of Trinity Church, Wall Street in the United States. Santiago de Compostela is believed to be the burial site of the disciple James, brother of Jesus. The Camino de Santiago has been a pilgrimage route since the 9th century.

### **Comment**

Guardian: Rev. Giles Fraser, "Father Jacques Hamel died as a priest, doing what priests do."

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2016/jul/28/father-jacques-hamel-died-as-a-priest-doing-what-priests-do>

**Guardian:** Rev. Sally Smith, "After Normandy, we must open the church doors wide."

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/28/normandy-church-father-jacques-hamel-terror-muslim>

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