



***Commodore Hugh Tully of the Irish Naval Service and Commodore Martin Quinn of the Royal Navy at the Commemoration of the Irish Sailor yesterday***

## **Belfast commemoration of Irish Sailor on Jutland centenary**

Yesterday 1 June 2016, HMS Caroline, the only ship existing which took part in the Battle of Jutland, was officially opened to the public after major refurbishment. This coincided with the centenary of the Battle on 31 May 1916.

A service was held to commemorate the Irish Sailor during the First World War. The commemoration took place at Alexandra Dock with HMS Caroline as the backdrop.

HRH Prince Michael of Kent and representatives of the Royal Navy and Irish Navy were in attendance at yesterday's commemoration.

Commodore Martin Quinn of the Royal Navy, and a former commanding officer of HMS Caroline said it was a "huge day for the maritime community in general".

"In 1916 of course Ireland wasn't partitioned so we were all one nation at that point," he said.

"Many thousands of Irishmen served at sea including the merchant marine, the fishermen. The community involvement with the sea has been huge for 100-odd years and for thousands before that, so this is a massive day for all of us."

Commodore Hugh Tully, who is head of the Irish Naval Service, also emphasised the importance of the event.

"Sailors are the same the world over, they love to get together and, on this important occasion, we are commemorating those who lost their lives at



### ***HMS Caroline***

sea during the First World War so it is a very important occasion to have the two navies together."

The service was conducted by the Rev Richard Rowe, a minister of the Methodist Church in Ireland, who is a serving chaplain with the Royal Navy.

The Methodist President, the Rev Brian Anderson, attended the service at which he offered the closing prayer and he also attend a Civic Lunch in Belfast's City Hall. Other Church Leaders were also present.

Commenting on this event the Methodist President said: 'I hope that when people revisit

the refurbished HMS Caroline, they will recall and give thanks for those who paid the supreme sacrifice, engaging the enemy on the seas as well as on the land, during the years of World War I.'

## **Catholic and Anglican in tandem at new Dublin Port Seafarers' Centre**

Sailors coming to Irish shores can expect the full 'céad míle fáilte' as a new Seafarers' centre opened at Dublin Port this week.

The €500,000 state-of-the-art centre will cater for the 7,500 seafarers and sailors that arrive into the Port every year from across the world.

The new Seafarers centre is housed in the old Odlum's mill at the Port, which closed in 2012.

Facilities include free Wi-Fi access for sailors to contact family and loved ones while ashore, cooking and dining facilities, and a relaxation and recreation space including a pool table, library and TV den with beanbags.

Lord Mayor of Dublin Críona Ní Dhálaig - who is also Honorary Admiral of Dublin Port - was guest of honour as the centre opened.



She said "I commend Dublin Port for creating such a welcoming facility for the thousands of seafarers who visit our shores and make a valuable contribution to our city and society.

"It's wonderful to see the Catholic Apostleship of the Sea and the Anglican Mission to Seafarers working in tandem to continue their respective traditions of caring for seafarers" said the Mayor.

Chief Executive of Dublin Port Company Eamonn O'Reilly said: "We are delighted to open Dublin Port's new purpose-built Seafarers' Centre.

"It means that Dublin Port can provide sailors working thousands of miles from home with a

space to rest, socialise and connect with family and friends under the care of Stella Maris and the Flying Angel.

"The Centre is a fine example of sustainable development in practice at Dublin Port."

## **Presbyterian Church's steady and passionate work, outgoing Moderator reflects on year**

As he and his wife Anne criss-crossed the country Dr. Ian McNie found it to be a journey of genuine discovery, the social witness of the Church in particular. "What really impacted me was the totality of the work that our Church is involved in. While I was aware that there was much good work being done, I didn't have any real appreciation for its breadth and the impact it had.

"Some of it is very sensitive work, but there is a steady work being undertaken throughout the land under the name of the Presbyterian Church by many people who are passionate about what they do," he said.

From the team that works in Thompson House for ex-offenders, to those supporting people with addictions, from the community outreach



workers, Irish mission workers and deaconesses serving at home, to the staff in the residential, supported living and respite care homes, including the chaplains working in hospitals, the armed forces, universities and prisons – all aspects of their work left an indelible impression on the outgoing Moderator, as did the overseas mission personnel he met in Malawi.

During the course of the year he visited upwards of 120 congregations – speaking twice most Sundays in different churches, visiting other congregations and meeting members during the three weeklong presbytery tours he undertook. Dr. McNie also met with over 80 families in their manses.

“Seeing first hand the vision and genuine desire of so many congregations to reach out and impact their local community with the gospel of salvation was incredibly encouraging.

“While recognising that the Church is not perfect, and we, like other denominations, have our challenges, in many areas of church life, both locally and centrally, I found our church to be healthy, vibrant and doing a great work. It is being what the Church should be, which is God’s instrument seeking to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and being salt and light in the community they find themselves.”

It is a message that he will bring to this year’s General Assembly, which will involve 1,000 delegates from congregations across Ireland taking part in three and a half days of worship, prayer, Bible study, celebration, debate and decision-making in Assembly Buildings, Belfast.

Dr. McNie will give his final address as Moderator on the Assembly’s Opening Night, which starts at 7pm on Monday, 6th June and is open to the public. Members of Assembly and invited guests will join together in worship to officially open the 2016 meeting that night and witness the installation of the 177th Moderator,



Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar, minister of Bloomfield Presbyterian Church, in east Belfast.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on Radio Ulster 1341 Medium Wave, with business commencing at 9.30am on Tuesday. The vast majority of the Assembly's business is open to the public and will also be streamed live on this website. There will also be a live feed on Twitter @pciassembly hashtag #pciga16.

The General Assembly will close on Friday afternoon, 10th June. Dr. McNie said that all are welcome to attend.

## **Thomas Becket 'a sign of eternal hope' says Archbishop Welby**

The Archbishop of Canterbury gave a personal reflection on the continuing significance of Thomas Becket during a symposium on the martyred Archbishop held at Lambeth Palace last week.

Speakers at the symposium included the Ambassador of Hungary, His Excellency Péter Szabadhegy; the Minister of State of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, István Mikola; and Professor Eamon Duffy of the University of Cambridge, among other leading experts.



***Archbishop Justin Welby addresses a symposium on Thomas Becket, Lambeth Palace***

In his reflection Archbishop Justin Welby noted the ecumenical significance of Becket, who he said "has become one of the symbols within Europe for the whole church, a sign to the whole church; he calls us together."

Becket is "a figure who brings us together and enables us to reflect on the task and call of the church in the light of the challenges we face in modern Europe."

Within the church, he added, Becket is "a sign of eternal hope", and someone who calls the church to political awareness.

Noting Becket's significance for him personally as the current Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Justin said: "For me Becket is challenge and reassurance, inspiration, but ultimately a fellow receiver of the grace of God."

## **Mothers' Union meets Parliamentary Group on Strengthening Couple Relationships**

Mothers' Union was invited to speak at the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Strengthening Couple Relationships in May, by Fiona Bruce MP, chair of the APPG. The group aims to promote and develop marriage and relationship skills and support, and identify best practice within the UK and internationally, to help reduce family breakdown; and meets on a regular basis in Parliament.

Katy Kerr, Mothers' Union's national trainer for Loving for Life, spoke in one of Parliament's splendid committee rooms about the training programme, which is a collaborative ministry between Mothers' Union members and associates and the parish priest, to assist with the development of a church's marriage ministry.

"The focus of the Loving for Life facilitator training is not about practical arrangements for the wedding, choices for the wedding service, or the theology of marriage; but about the couple relationship", said Katy. "Marriage preparation can provide the basis of a solid, caring and respectful relationship, and provide strategies to cope when experiencing difficulties; so that couples who have decided to marry have the best chance of having a successful marriage".

As well as Katy, a number of other leading marriage and relationship organisations spoke at the APPG, including Harry Benson from the Marriage Foundation, Mark Molden from Marriage Care and Nicky and Sila Lee, founders of the Holy Trinity Brompton Marriage Preparation and Marriage Courses.

The work of the APPG is feeding into the Government's Life Chances Strategy, which is due to be published this year.

For further details on the APPG, go to <http://tccr.ac.uk/policy-research/appg>  
For further details about Loving for Life, go to [www.mothersunion.org/our-focus/marriage/preparing-couples-marriage](http://www.mothersunion.org/our-focus/marriage/preparing-couples-marriage)

## Cathedral, choral and musical

Interdenominational Divine Healing Ministries - **Day of Prayer For the Renewal & Revival of Faith** in this Land. Saturday June 18, 10.30am – 3.30pm, **St Anne's Cathedral Belfast**. Theme – Revival through Unceasing Prayer. “This day will conclude 7 Years of Prayer and will be a very spiritual experience” state the organisers. You can come and go as you please. Tel: 028 9031 1532 email: [divinehealing@live.co.uk](mailto:divinehealing@live.co.uk)

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Thousands of devotees of St Anthony are expected in **Knock** on Saturday 11 June, one of eight locations the relics of the Saint will visit in Ireland between 9 and 17 June. The other locations in Ireland are Armagh, Dublin, Killarney, Sligo, Derry, Longford and Cahir. A special welcome ceremony for the relics will take place in Knock at 11am on 11 June and this will be followed by veneration of the relics in **Knock Basilica** until 2.30pm.

The Polish Community Pilgrimage Mass will take place in the Basilica at 3pm followed by veneration until 7.30pm when there will be a concelebrated Mass, at which Archbishop

Michael Neary will preside. The relics will depart early the next day for **Sligo cathedral**. They will be accompanied by Fr Mario Conte, editor of the Messenger of Saint Anthony, the magazine published by the Conventual Franciscan Friars of St Anthony's Basilica in Padua, Italy, where the Saint is buried. Irish people have a strong tradition of devotion to St Anthony and are accustomed to praying to the Saint for the recovery of lost items.

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The sun shone on the congregation at the annual **St Doulagh's Church Open Air Service** which took place on Sunday (May 29) in Balgriffen. The service was attended by Archbishop Michael Jackson and was led by the Rector, the Revd Dr Norman Gamble. Music was led by the Brass Band of the 1st Dublin Company of the Boys' Brigade and by the Male Voice Choir of the Dublin Conservative Club.

The service also saw the launch of the St Doulagh's Church Restoration Appeal. The appeal's target is €300,000 which is needed to carry out substantial repairs to the ancient church. Works include the cleaning and repointing of the stone roof and tower, the replacement of the Victorian tiling inside the

church and the securing of retaining walls around the churchyard. Much of the structure of St Doulagh's dates back to the 12th century and the church is the oldest place of worship still in regular weekly use in Ireland. The site has been used for worship since at least the 6th century. The area around it is undergoing major residential development and the parish wants St Doulagh's to be a living reminder of the area's heritage as well as a centre of worship and spirituality in a contemporary society.

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

### **Politicians and media accused of trying to destroy Catholic Church**

Irish Times

"**Ireland** through its political and media establishments seems determined to eliminate the engagement of the Catholic Church in the public sphere," ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/politicians-and-media-accused-of-trying-to-destroy-catholic-church-1.2666334>

### **Garvaghy Road residents dismiss Orange Order parade proposals**

the Irish News

He explained the process involving the Catholic priest eventually came to nothing with the clergyman urging them to approach the **Church of Ireland** ...

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/05/31/news/garvaghy-road-residents-dismiss-orange-order-parade-proposals-539563/>

## **Ind**

Reports that Richard Dawkins has responded to the suggestions that atheists are violent. The author of *The God Delusion* also described Islam as “the most dangerous religion”. “Anyone who believes that what is written in a holy book is true even if the evidence is against it is dangerous,” he wrote. “Christianity used to be the most dangerous religion. Now Islam is.”

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/richard-dawkins-responds-to-the-suggestion-atheists-are-violent-a7056301.html>

## **Tel**

Travel article features British cathedrals worth visiting including York Minster, Exeter, Ely, Winchester, Durham and Coventry cathedrals.

## **Mail**

Report that a mosaic of an eight-foot-tall angel hidden beneath plaster for hundreds of years has now been uncovered at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Technicians scraped away layers of plaster to reveal the ancient tiles and are now working to bring it back to life.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3616680/The-angel-looked-birthplace-Jesus-Incredible-mosaic-discovered-plaster-walls-Church-Nativity-Bethlehem.html>

## **Guard**



Reports the publication of the Emoji Bible. Described as a “great and fun way to share the gospel”, it interprets all 66 books of the King James Version with Unicode-approved emoji and commonly-used internet slang and contractions. Totalling just under 3,300 pages, the book – subtitled “Scripture 4 Millennials” – was published on iTunes on Sunday.

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/may/30/emoji-bible-arrived-god-king-james>

### **Letters**

**Guardian:** Humanism and morality have cast off religion

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/30/humanism-and-morality-have-cast-off-religion>

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