



40 years of Knock Basilica remembered with re-dedication ceremony on 16 July

A special ceremony of re-dedication will take place at Knock Basilica on Saturday 16 July to mark 40 years of the original dedication of Knock Basilica on 18 July 1976. The Basilica has recently been completely modernised and

transformed into a warm and welcoming sacred space with top of the range technology incorporated to facilitate pilgrims with live-streamed Masses and ceremonies as well a broader mix of concerts and events, such as the hugely successful 'Concert for Peace' which took place in May.

The renovation marks a new era in the history of the Basilica which started out as the great wish of Monsignor Horan to give shelter to the thousands of pilgrims visiting Knock Shrine. It has since evolved from a one-dimensional, purpose-built, functional building to one that suggests endless possibilities for Knock Shrine, the wider community and the West of Ireland.

The Basilica originally held the title 'Church of Our Lady, Queen of Ireland', however it was raised to the status of Basilica during the Papal visit of 1979.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce that in honour of Our Blessed Lady, on this Centenary Year at Knock, the new Church recently built in her honour will from this day forward be known under the title of the Basilica of Our Lady Queen of Ireland" - Saint John Paul II, 30th September, 1979

The coinciding visit of the Archdiocese of Boston, led by Cardinal Seán O'Malley is perfectly providential in echoing the dream of Monsignor James Horan to bring pilgrims to Knock from all over the world. The Boston group, accompanied by the Mayor of Boston, Marty Walsh, will arrive in to Knock Airport on Thursday 14 July and are to spend a week taking in the delights of the West of Ireland.

Commenting on the Boston Archdiocesan pilgrimage, Father Richard Gibbons, Parish Priest, Knock, said, "We are delighted to see the second organised pilgrimage coming in from the States, as we have the Archdiocese of New York last year with Cardinal Dolan which was wonderful for Knock. We are anticipating crowds similar to the 15 August, which is traditionally a very busy day in Knock."

A commemorative booklet will be launched on the day of the re-dedication which promises to showcase beautiful images of the new interior and interesting details around the refurbished elements as well as the impressive new mosaic, comprised of over 1.5 million tiny mosaic tiles. Úna Nolan, Director of Music at Knock has been busy composing new pieces for the event which will include guest instrumentalists and combined senior and junior choirs in Knock. All

are welcome to attend the special Mass of Rededication at 3.00pm on Saturday 16 July.

For further information visit: www.knockshrine.ie/pilgrimageseason.

Bishop's Orange collarette presented to heritage centre

A former senior clergyman - and Orangeman - has been remembered at a recent memorial event in Belfast Cathedral.

The Rt Rev. Dr. Cyril Elliott served as Bishop of Connor between 1956 and 1969, and is believed to be the last member of the Orange Institution to hold to such a high-ranking position within the Church of Ireland.

The former Dublin-born Orange chaplain, who passed away in 1977, like many of his fellow brethren, also served with distinction with the 36th Ulster Division at the Battle of the Somme.

At a special service at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, regalia belonging to Bishop Elliott was presented to the Museum of Orange Heritage by members of his former lodge, Botanic Temperance LOL 1119.



A wreath was also laid in memory of the 36th Ulster Division and the other Irish Divisions involved in the First World War.

The Orange collarette was received by museum curator, Dr Jonathan Mattison.

He said: “This collarette is a very significant item to be donated for public display. Bishop Elliott was obviously someone who was extremely proud of his Christian faith and cultural heritage, demonstrated through his active membership of the Orange Institution.

“On behalf of the Museum of Orange Heritage, I would express our gratitude to Botanic

Temperance LOL 1119 for its kind donation, and to St Anne's Cathedral for facilitating the event."

Botanic Temperance LOL is the oldest lodge in Sandy Row District and was one of the original six foundation lodges of the District lodge in south Belfast.

The short act of divine worship was led by the Rev William Hoey.

Rev Elliott previously served as a chaplain to the forces, and was twice mentioned in dispatches for performing duties under heavy shell fire. He also held the Somme medal.

Following his service on the front line, Rev Elliott was Dean of Down before being appointed Dean of Belfast at St Anne's in 1945. The Orangeman was consecrated as Lord Bishop of Connor in Lisburn Cathedral, serving for 14 years, prior to his retirement aged 78. Archbishop George Simms paid tribute to him at his funeral stressing his great person to person ministry and how he had lived to a remarkable degree in the lives of others.

Bishop Elliott's collarette will feature as part of "The Lily and the Poppy" exhibition which opens next week in the Orange Heritage Centre at the order's headquarters.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/cleric-s-collarette-to-go-on-display-at-museum-1-7445529>

Working together to protect children

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland, together with representatives from uniformed organisations, have launched a revised edition of 'The Common Protocol' leaflet for the protection of children.

In 2005, the three churches, along with the uniformed organisations - Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade, Scouts NI and Girlguiding Ulster - came together to develop a joint approach to child protection.

PCI's Taking Care Programme Co-ordinator, Deborah Webster said, "As a Church, we believe that next to proclaiming God's Word and the love of Christ, nothing could be more important than keeping our children and young people safe.

"Eleven years ago we thought that it would be better for the protection of children if we came together with the uniformed organisations who regularly use church premises so we could act in

unison with regard to the protection of our children. As a result we produced an agreed set of guidelines.

“The revised edition of ‘The Common Protocol’ leaflet we launched in Assembly Buildings explains the working relationship between the three churches and the uniformed organisations.

“It clearly sets out the expectations and specific responsibilities of the churches and organisations in relation to child protection. This includes police checking of leaders, their appointment, information sharing and reporting of concerns, which may arise. It also explains what agreements should be in place for the use of church premises,” she explained.

Taking Care is the name given to the child protection policy and programme of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Its aim is to create and promote a safe environment for children, young people and leaders.

“With over 30,000 leaders and 120,000 children and young people involved in activities across the Church annually, we are hugely committed to keeping our children and young people safe, and our leaders well informed and well trained.

“To this end last year alone we held 139 training events across the Church, as part of our Taking Care programme, which were attended by over 4,000 leaders to keep them up to date in child protection policies and practice. The launch of our leaflet is another example of our commitment to keeping our children safe,” Deborah Webster said.

Ecumenical body consults on new vision for Europe

The Conference of European Churches (CEC) has launched a consultation on the future shape of the continent and the role played in it by the churches. The CEC brings together 114 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican, and Old Catholic churches from across the European Continent, including the Church of England, Church of Ireland, Church in Wales and the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church.

In an open letter to Europe’s churches ahead of the UK’s referendum on continuing membership of the European Union (EU) on Thursday, the CEC’s governing board set out its view of the current situation in Europe.

Explaining the thinking behind the letter, they say that Thursday's EU referendum in the UK "is just one sign of the difficulties facing the continent. Developments in Europe toward more unity and cooperation, so much appreciated some decades ago, are now increasingly put into doubt.

"Churches in many parts of the continent have been contributing to the European project at different stages by raising their voice, highlighting the role of churches in society, emphasising the role of churches and ethics and values, reaching beyond economic wellbeing.

"With the particular moment of the UK EU referendum in mind, we address this letter to all CEC member churches, organisations in partnership and national councils of churches. Although the EU has a special role and responsibility for the continent, we are aware that Europe is much more than the EU. We welcome reactions from all CEC Member Churches, within and beyond EU Member States. All of us have a word to say on the future of the continent, shaping Europe as our common home."

In their letter, the CEC governing board recognise the mixed impact that churches have

played in the history of the continent. “In discussing which values should underpin society at large in Europe, churches should apply a certain degree of modesty, being mindful of the ambiguous role religion has played in Europe during the past 2000 years,” they say.

[Click here](#) to read the full letter from the CEC to European churches (PDF)
<http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2016/06/ecumenical-body-consults-on-a-new-vision-for-europe.aspx>

Armenia has genius in rising above suffering, Pope Francis

Pope Francis has told Armenians he is travelling to their country to promote closer bonds with their Orthodox church, honour their steadfast faith in the face of tragedy and support them in their efforts to build a peaceful future.

In a video message transmitted on Wednesday on Armenian television, the Pope said he admired the Armenian people but also shared their pain over the difficult moments of the country’s history and its people.

In more than 1,700 years as an officially Christian nation, he said, “you have found in the cross of Christ and in your genius the strength always to



Pope Francis embraces Catholicos Karekin II of Etchmiadzin, patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church, during an April 12 Mass in St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide

rise again even from the sufferings that were among the most terrible that history recalls.”

The remarks were a reference to what is widely known as the Armenian Genocide, when 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks in 1915-18.

However, he said, “we must not allow painful memories to take possession of our hearts. Even in the face of repeated assaults of evil, we cannot give up.”

Connecting with Armenia's traditional attachment to the story of Noah's Ark, which according to legend came to rest on Mount Ararat, which is now in neighbouring Turkey,

Pope Francis told the people that they should be like Noah, "who after the flood never tired of looking toward the heavens and kept releasing doves." When a dove finally returned carrying an olive branch, he said, Noah knew "that life could begin again and hope could be revived."

The Pope said he would visit Armenia "as a pilgrim in this jubilee year to draw from the ancient wisdom of your people and drink from the springs of your faith."

As a guest of the patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Catholicos Karekin II, Pope Francis said he hoped to "strengthen our communion" and "advance on the path of reconciliation."

Church in Sri Lanka responds to devastating floods

The Church of Ceylon has launched an emergency response to devastating floods in Sri Lanka that have claimed over 100 lives and left



The Diocese of Colombo, in Sri Lanka, distributes bedding after the floods

thousands homeless and without resources. As floodwaters recede, agencies are taking stock. Communities require emergency assistance, and there is an urgent need to prevent the spread of disease through environmental clean-up and waste management.

At least 104 people are known to have died. This number could rise as 99 people are still missing – the majority following a landslide in the western region of Kegalle, in the Sabaragamuwa Province, which destroyed three villages.

The Anglican mission agency United Society (formerly USPG) are assisting the Church of Ceylon's response. They say that more than 128,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed, and that this number is likely to rise because of a continuing threat of further landslides. The island's government has estimated that up to 30,000 businesses may have been affected.

“Those who have been displaced are living in temporary camps, schools, religious buildings, community centres, and with friends and relatives,” a spokesman for the United Society said. “The government and other organisations are providing food, water and healthcare. Where there is overcrowding, water and sanitation are particular concerns.”

The worst affected area is the district of Colombo, where a large number of people live on reclaimed marshland that is highly susceptible to flooding.

As part of its response, the Church of Ceylon's Board of Social Responsibility provided 30 boats during the initial emergency rescue operations. It is now focused on supporting families in the villages of Puttalam, Chilaw, Urubokke and Dandugama.

“Families have received food, toiletries, boots, medicines, cooking utensils, bedding, water purification tablets, chlorine and cleaning materials,” the United Society said. “The church is also helping with house repairs and providing schools books and supplies so the children can continue in education.”

On its website, the Diocese of Colombo reported that “The flooding and landslides have wreaked havoc across the country. Many casualties have been reported and dozens are missing under the mud of a landslide at Aranayake. “We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed generously in cash or kind or by volunteering their time.”

The Church is now planning for the next phase of its response, which will include assisting with the rehabilitation and reconstruction of communities as they rebuild livelihood activities.

The Church of Ceylon’s work supporting vulnerable tea plantation communities will be supported by the [United Society’s Harvest Appeal](#).

News briefs

Pride Service of Thanksgiving & Remembrance - St Audoen's Church, Dublin,
11.00 Saturday

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During July and August **St Mary's Tipperary** will be open for visitors if you are in the area please call in and say hello. There will be a display entitled "Everything you wanted to know about the Church of Ireland but were too afraid to ask.

Assistance with genealogy requests regarding church records will be available. St Mary's is one of the oldest buildings in Tipperary Town. Open Wednesday to Saturday

1.00pm to 4.30pm. Some interesting points about St Mary's -

It is the oldest graveyard in town with over 1000 recorded burials.

The grave of Christopher Emmet grandfather of the Irish patriot Robert Emmet is located in the grounds.

The grave of Ellen O'Leary Poet, and sister of the Fenian John O'Leary is located in the grounds.

There has been a military connection with St Mary's as far back as the 1780 it was a garrison church.

There are 9 Commonwealth war graves and 11 other military related graves dating 1880 – 1920

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The **Parish of Tamlaght O'Crilly Lower** is celebrating the success of its **Wedding Dress Festival** in Saint Nossonus' Church in Innisrush earlier this month. Among the visitors to the festival were the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, and his wife Mary. Mary's wedding dress was one of many on display at the event. Bellaghy Primary School Choir performed at the opening service in Saint Nossonus' Church, and the preacher for the closing service was the Rev John Anderson. The festival offered an opportunity for parishioners, neighbours and visitors from elsewhere to meet, worship together and celebrate the institution of marriage.

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The **Down and Connor Diocesan Pastoral Council** hosted their second Mid- Summer evening. This event, developed from their pastoral plan, is an evening to celebrate the vital contribution of new initiatives as part of their Living Church project. This year St. Genevieve's High School in St Michael the Archangel Parish in West Belfast hosted the Evening. Read more about the event on the Down and Connor website <http://www.downandconnor.org/blog/2016/06/22/mid-summer-evening-21st-june-2016/>

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The Revd Garth Bunting has been appointed Rector of **Drumcondra and North Strand** in the Diocese of Dublin. Garth is currently Residential Priest Vicar of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. He succeeds Canon Roy Byrne who moved to become Rector of Monkstown Parish earlier this year. Garth Bunting was ordained deacon in 1999 to serve as curate–assistant of the Parish of Clooney with Strathfoyle, Londonderry. Before moving in 2010 to be Residential Priest Vicar at Christ Church Cathedral, he served incumbencies in Leckpatrick and Dunnalong (Derry and Raphoe, 2002–2006) and Finaghy and Upper Malone, Belfast (Connor, 2006–2010). While at Christ Church Cathedral, Garth has been responsible for the spirituality programme. That has involved facilitating retreats, quiet days and opportunities for spiritual direction. With his interest in the monastic tradition, he has been seeking new ways of being inspired by that tradition in the midst of modern life.

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Episcopal Digital Network has launched Actualités, designed to provide news and information for French-speaking readers. Actualités, which means “news” in French, was designed to provide services for French-speaking Episcopalians and Anglicans

throughout The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

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The Anglican moderator of the World Council of Churches (WCC) has called on the church to move away from nostalgia and consider how to become catalysts of a moral force in a world beset by injustice, inequality and rising xenophobia.

<http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2016/06/anglican-call-for-action-at-world-council-of-churches.aspx>

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Power of Irish Church 'partly explains scandals'

Irish Times

The power enjoyed by Catholic **Church** in **Ireland** was responsible in part for the scandals that have emerged in recent years, a conference in Trinity ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/power-of-irish-church-partly-explains-scandals-1.2695369>

Same sex marriage: Finance minister asks officials to work on draft bill

BBC News

Northern Ireland's finance minister asks his officials to work on a draft bill to introduce same sex marriage in Northern Ireland.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36599370>

Concerns over plans to merge Catholic and Protestant schools to create North's first shared faith ...

Derry Now

Concerns have been raised over to merge a Catholic maintained primary school amalgamate with a **Church of Ireland** controlled school in Co Derry.

<http://www.derrynow.com/news/concerns-over-plans-to-merge-catholic-and-protestant-schools-to-create-norths-first-shared-faith-school/99581>

Women at pulpit for 'Munster final of religion'

Irish Examiner

Fr Seamus Enright, rector of Mount St Alphonsus describes it as the “Munster final of **religion**”. “Like the slogan for the **News** of the World, you will find ...

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/women-at-pulpit-for-munster-final-of-religion-406209.html>

Christian Today/Premier/Bolton News

Reports that the new Bishop of Bolton (Manchester Diocese) will be the Ven Mark Ashcroft, currently Archdeacon of Manchester (see above). Mark will be consecrated in York Minster by the Archbishop of York in October and will take up his role in November. He said he was "honoured and thrilled" by the appointment.

"Greater Manchester is a fantastic place to live and serve, and I am looking forward to getting to know and

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love the communities and churches" in the area, he said. Mark Ashcroft was praised by the Archbishop of York for his "great passion for mission and evangelism".

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/New-Bishop-of-Bolton-announced>

Christian Today/Premier

Report that almost 1,000 men and women will be ordained by the C of E over the next few months (see above). Includes comment from Bishop Steven Croft, chair of the Church of England's Ministry Council. The high number of ordinations this summer is "a sign of a hopeful future for the Church of England," he said.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/CofE-ordains-950-over-summer>

FT

Profile of the Revd Sally Muggeridge who is about to be "priested". The Revd Muggeridge, who was ordained deacon in the CofE last September, describes how her role bears some surprising similarities to several of her other professional forays, which span business, religion and theatre. Article notes she is the niece, and literary executor, of Malcolm Muggeridge, the late journalist and Christian apologist

https://next.ft.com/content/6f2749ea-33c4-11e6-bda0-04585c31b153?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel_Moreover//B2B

Northern Echo

Reports that the Bishop of Durham is urging people not to forget it is Refugee Week. Bishop Paul says there's been "a quiet revolution" of welcome for refugees has

been taking place across the country which is worthy of wider recognition.

Guard

Further coverage of the Exeter Book an Anglo-Saxon poetry anthology dating back more than 1,000 years which has been granted UNESCO status as "the foundation volume of English literature". Housed in Exeter Cathedral since it was given to the institution by its first bishop, Leofric, in the 11th century, the Exeter Book was written around 970. It contains some 40 poems and 96 riddles, a number of which are found nowhere else.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/jun/22/unesco-lists-exeter-book-among-worlds-principal-cultural-artefacts>

South West Business

Reports that Insurance firm Ecclesiastical gave £50 million to charities over the last two years. The company marked reaching its target with a special Service of Thanksgiving at Gloucester Cathedral. Chief executive Mark Hews said, "Being a successful commercial organisation and working incredibly hard in order to be able to give back to the communities we operate in has always been a part of Ecclesiastical's DNA."

<http://www.southwestbusiness.co.uk/regions/gloucestershire/-50m-ecclesiastical-donation-to-charities-to-double-22062016080914/>

BBC

Reports that an archaeological dig could take place around Reading Prison in preparation for its sale. The Ministry of Justice has applied to dig 12 test pits around

the Victorian prison to search for remains of the town's medieval abbey. The prison was shut in 2013 and the Ministry of Justice has had plans to sell it for development ever since. Survey work began in June to find the tomb of King Henry I, thought to be in the remains of Reading Abbey.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-36592073>

Christian Today

Reports that women are now able to be priests in every Anglican diocese of the West Indies, after the church in Guyana voted to allow the ordination of women yesterday. The synod of the diocese of Guyana voted without dissent to amend the diocesan canon to permit the ordination of women on June 21 at their 145th meeting at St George's Cathedral in Georgetown.

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