



The Revd Eoghan Heaslip is commissioned by Archbishop Michael Jackson. Also pictured is Fr Kieran McDermott.

ICON Community Launched in Dublin – Historic Day for New Church Plant

ICON Community is an invitation and an opportunity placed in our path by God, the Archbishop of Dublin stated at its launch service on Saturday afternoon (March 28).

Lynn Glanville writes - The service, during which the community's leader, the Revd Eoghan Heaslip, was commissioned by Archbishop Michael Jackson, took place in the Methodist Centenary Church, Leeson Park, where members of the community gather twice a month.

A large number of family, friends, Eoghan's clerical colleagues and well wishers joined ICON members for the celebration. Eoghan's wife Becky, who helps lead the community, and their daughters, Rachel, Abigail and Evelyn took part. Also present was Fr Kieran McDermott, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation and Ecumenism with the Archdiocese of Dublin and former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland and now the Church's Home Mission Secretary, the Revd Dr Heather Morris along with Methodist Minister, the Revd Andrew Dougherty.

In his sermon, the Archbishop explained that ICON is a community of God, a community of networks and a community of hope. "ICON seeks to share and to spread the holiness of

God through relationships of faith, hope and love, relationships that are unconditional and at the same time are demanding,” he suggested.



Clergy at the launch of ICON Community – Canon Horace McKinley, the Revd Andrew Dougherty, Fr Kieran McDermott, the Revd Eoghan Heaslip, Archbishop Michael Jackson, the Revd Stephen Farrell and the Revd Dr Heather Morris.

The network of communities lives with the discipline of letting go – that is letting people in the existing community go to form a new community. “This is new to us in the Church of Ireland,” Archbishop Jackson said. “Much of our energy in recent decades has gone into preservation and conservation as ends in themselves. They are not; they quickly become the engine-room of fear and withdrawal. God places invitations and opportunities in our path

and will continue to do so. We are called to wakefulness and watchfulness. ICON is one such opportunity and invitation and I want many to grasp it.”

He described Eoghan as the chaplain to the community who would enable members to live and flourish within the diocesan family of Dublin and Glendalough. “Chaplaincy is a ministry of accompaniment and this is the ministry more and more people need today. ‘Getting alongside’ may sound rather clichéd but I am not sure where else you might start to befriend those who are de-churched and un-churched. The church can scar as well as heal. It is our frailty and our failure. It is my prayer that ICON will do planting and sowing, watering and harvesting and more, in the earthly and heavenly spirit of Jesus Christ who moved from community to community – and nobody was ever quite the same thereafter,” he said.

He concluded by thanking the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Revd Andrew Dougherty for giving a warm and generous home to ICON for worship.

ICON is an Anglican church plant whose members believe that the Christian life is best experienced by being part of a family – a family

with the unique purpose and mission of engaging in the adventure of following Jesus and living for him.

More information on ICON can be found at iconcommunity.ie, [@icon_community](https://www.instagram.com/icon_community), [facebook.com/iconcommunitydublin](https://www.facebook.com/iconcommunitydublin)

Some families are living a long Good Friday - Archbishop Martin on 'The Disappeared'

Archbishop Eamon Martin speaking after celebrating a mass for the families of the disappeared said, "Some families are living a long Good Friday, and it is difficult for them to know the Easter promise of resurrection..."

"I appeal to the conscience of anyone who has information that might help to come forward to the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains".

Cardinal Seán Brady, Archbishop Emeritus of Armagh, celebrated this annual Mass with the families of 'The Disappeared' until his retirement in 2014. Since 1997 the families have been meeting together through the WAVE trauma centre.

Archbishop Eamon Martin said, "It is a humbling experience for me to meet and pray for the first time today with families of 'The Disappeared'. For sixteen years the families of those abducted, murdered and secretly buried, have gathered annually on Palm Sunday here at Saint Patrick's College in Armagh for a Mass of Remembrance. The gathering helps the families to connect with each other in solidarity and compassion.

"Over these sixteen years the families have comforted each other, and consoling friendships have formed among them. There have been moments of hope when fresh information has come forward leading to a new search. There have been great disappointments when some of those searches have proven futile. And, thank God, during that time, eleven of the seventeen families have recovered the long-lost bodies of their loved ones, allowing them to begin at last to find some closure.

"For other families the pain, uncertainty and waiting continues. Today, as we begin Holy Week, their sorrowful burden reminds me of how our Saviour had to carry His heavy Cross along the Via Dolorosa. Some families are living a long Good Friday, and it is difficult for them to know the Easter promise of resurrection. The recovery,

last October in County Meath, of Brendan Megraw's body, encourages them not to lose hope. I appeal to the conscience of anyone who has information that might help to come forward to the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains so that, even at this late stage, the remaining families can experience the consolation of being able to offer a Christian burial to their loved ones. They come with the assurance that the information can only be used to recover the bodies of those disappeared."

C of E statement on Enoch Powell, MP

Yesterday evening, 30 March 2015, The Church of England issued the following statement -

In June 2014 one of the Church of England's safeguarding advisers contacted the Police with information concerning individuals against whom allegations had been made to a priest in the 1980s. The allegations concerned Members of Parliament who were alleged to be members of a Satanic cult in connection with the trial of Derry Mainwaring Knight who was convicted for fraud in 1986.



References to these allegations had been in the public domain as part of the trial of and also in a book by Tim Tate "Children for the Devil: Ritual Abuse and Satanic Crime" (1991).

These allegations were passed to the police in 2014 following correspondence between Dominic Walker, the former Bishop of Monmouth (and before that of Reading), to whom the allegations had been made and the lead Bishop for Safeguarding, Bishop Paul Butler. Dominic Walker was clear that he had no evidence relating to the allegations. The allegations referred to membership of satanic cults rather than direct criminal activity.

Consequently it is incorrect to suggest, as Simon Heffer does in the [Daily Mail online 30 March 2015](#) that the Church of England is conducting a review into historic sex abuse in this matter.

Further it is untrue to say that the Church of England proactively placed these allegations into the public domain. Rather this occurred through a story published by the Mail on Sunday on 29 March 2015.

The Mail on Sunday approached the Communications Office of the Church of England on 27 March 2015 seeking confirmation that the name of Enoch Powell was part of a conversation in the 1980s in relation to ritual satanic abuse.

The extent of the Church of England's actions in this matter has been to pass these allegations to the police and to confirm to media outlets who approached our Communications Office that we had done so. In passing these names on to the police the Church of England made it was clear it was not making any judgment but simply fulfilling its responsibility to pass on information when it is widely known that the police are conducting a serious investigation into the possibility of past abuse by politicians, including the possible cover up of some stories. The victims and survivors of abuse would expect us to do no other.

We are committed to full participation in the statutory inquiry into historical child sexual abuse established by the government to be chaired by Lord Justice Goddard.

CNI - [Brigadier John Enoch Powell, MBE](#) ; 16 June 1912 – 8 February 1998) was an English politician, classical scholar, linguist, and poet. He served as a [Conservative](#) Member of Parliament (MP, 1950–74), [Ulster Unionist Party](#) (UUP) MP for South Down (1974–87), and [Minister of Health](#) (1960–63). Before entering politics, he had been a classical scholar, becoming a [full professor](#) of [ancient Greek](#) at the age of 25. During the [Second World War](#), he served in both

staff and intelligence positions, reaching the rank of [brigadier](#) in his early thirties. He also wrote poetry, his first works being published in 1937, as well as many books on classical and political subjects.

Yesterday reports appeared in various newspapers including Independent/Metro/Mail/Times. See below:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/tory-mp-enoch-powell-investigated-as-alleged-member-of-westminster-paedophile-network-10142235.html>

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/03/29/enoch-powell-named-in-sex-abuse-probe-5126476/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3017207/Enoch-Powell-accused-satanic-sex-abuse-Bishop-Durham-gave-Met-detectives.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4396568.ece>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3017219/SIMON-HEFFER-allegations-against-Enoch-Powell-monstrous-lie-contempt.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Three GOAL aid workers injured in Syria shelling

Two people working for the Irish charity GOAL have suffered serious injuries following air strikes in the northern part of Syria.

Independent - One is reported to be critically ill - while the other has had to undergo extensive medical treatment.

A third member of the GOAL staff suffered minor injuries in the air attacks.

One of those seriously injured in the air assault suffered devastating head injuries, and has shrapnel lodged in his brain.

GOAL CEO Barry Andrews revealed the charity was forced to suspend operations last week because of intense shelling.

"One of the guys is going to require huge surgery, so it's an extremely bad situation," Mr Andrews told the Irish Independent.

"The three staff members are Syrian; it wouldn't be safe to have international staff because of the risk of abduction."

He stressed GOAL will remain in the country to continue its humanitarian work, despite the growing risks.

"This incident once again underlines the acute dangers that humanitarian aid workers face by working inside Syria.

"They are putting themselves in harm's way each day, in order to deliver critical aid like food and water, to some of the people most affected by the conflict." More at -

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/three-goal-aid-workers-injured-in-syria-shelling-31104126.html>

http://www.thejournal.ie/goal-workers-injured-syria-2019951-Mar2015/?utm_source=twitter_self

NI Churches Secure £1.2m Through Roof Repair Fund

25 Historic churches in Northern Ireland have secured £1.2 million through the UK wide roof repair fund.

It includes spending of over £136,000 to three churches in L'Derry. The churches are St Columba's Church, Longtower, St Augustine's Church and St Columb's Cathedral.

Environment Minister Mark H Durkan said: "This is a tremendous extra boost for our listed places of worship. I am delighted that there were over

100 local application and that 25 have been successful bringing over £1.2million of much needed investment for these buildings.

"The extension of the fund provides a further opportunity for new bidders and also those who have been unsuccessful in the initial round to apply for support. The North has some very attractive listed church buildings but many are in need of urgent repair to roofs and guttering."

US Astronaut visits Donegal church

Many different people have visited Donegal Parish Church, down through the decades, but few have travelled as far as one of last week's callers.

Former astronaut, Captain Jon A. McBride, boldly went where no fellow space-traveller has gone before. The ex-U.S. naval officer – who piloted the space shuttle Challenger on its penultimate mission – visited Donegal Parish Church with his son, Jon Jnr.

The men were keen to see their ancestors' home county and were brought to the church by parishioner Geoff Browne, accompanied by the Mayor of Donegal, Councillor John Campbell.

Earlier in the day, the astronaut treated pupils at Abbey Vocational School to an unforgettable science lesson.



Jon McBride Jnr, Mayor of Donegal, Councillor John Campbell, Geoff Browne (Parishioner), Captain Jon A McBride

During an inspirational presentation, Captain McBride – an ex-fighter pilot – gave the students an insight into his career with NASA; showed them photographs including some he had taken as Challenger orbited the earth; and explained to them the physical and mental demands of space travel.

The students enjoyed hearing how astronauts trained for zero gravity in an aircraft nicknamed

“the Vomit Comet” – for obvious reasons. He urged his young audience to study hard and not to waste the opportunity of acquiring a first class education.

Captain McBride and his son were hosted for part of their trip by Bishop Ken Good and his wife Mary. Bishop Good became friends with the former astronaut when they met at Kennedy Space Center recently, and agreed to help facilitate his visit to Donegal. While in the county, the McBrides toured some of the North West’s best-known tourist attractions, including Slieve League and Donegal Castle, where the Mayor presented them with a County Crest.

Connor Young People Gather For The Event In Ballymena

St Patrick’s, Ballymena, was the venue for the Spring EVENT for young people organised by Engage Connor Youth.

Youth groups from across Connor Diocese were greeted with popcorn on arrival, and the EVENT began with an exuberant welcome and challenging game of Ninjas.

Aarron Boyce, aka Ed Sheeran, led worship aided by a wonderful band. The worship was celebratory and engaging.

The theme of the evening was ‘Discovering the possibilities when we pray’ with Tash Creaney from 24/7. Tash proved a brilliant speaker—everyone was hooked on her every word!

“We were challenged, we were loved, we were encouraged and reminded that God is interested in every area of our lives,” said Youth leader Gillian Millar.

“Tash’s life story will have resonated with so many people listening. Tash went on to encourage us to pray and gave us simple tools to help us every day in our own prayer life. As a youth leader it was humbling to see all those groups huddled around beach balls and writing on their prayer topics. Then finally to see young people truly engaged in the prayer stations dotted around the room and responding to God! Wonderful!”

A great night drew to a close with pizza for everyone.

Gillian added: *“It’s great to be reminded that we are all part of a bigger picture and not just*

solitary youth groups working away in our own locality. We are certainly looking forward to what's next!"

Call For Organisations To Apply For Minority Ethnic Development Fund

Northern Ireland Junior Minister Jonathan Bell has called on community and voluntary organisations working with minority ethnic groups to apply for funding from OFMDFM.

The Department's Minority Ethnic Development Fund is worth £1.1 million in 2015/16. The Fund aims to support voluntary and community groups to promote good relations between people of different ethnic backgrounds and foster social cohesion.

He said: "The Minority Ethnic Development Fund has played a crucial role in our efforts towards achieving racial equality and good race relations here.

"We want to continue to build on that good work with the opening of the Fund for 2015/16. The Fund provides a practical response to enable members of minority ethnic communities to become active citizens, using their skills, talent

and knowledge to the benefit of us all. We encourage groups working in this sector to consider applying to the Fund."

Dr Who's father honoured at a special church service

The father of David Tennant and former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was honoured at a special church service yesterday.

Very Rev Dr Sandy McDonald, who was Moderator of the General Assembly, enjoyed an evening of hymns and memories in Renfrew North Parish Church, where the 77-year-old regularly attended and often preached.

Led by Very Rev Dr Hood, Moderator between 2013 and 2014, the service, attended by 600 people, was described as 'this is your life, with hymns'.

She said: "What a fantastic night. It was a night full of wonderful spirit where

everyone left uplifted. One person told me she was going home with 'songs ringing in my heart'."

Friends recalled Dr McDonald's rich and varied experiences across life and ministry. These included an early role in the timber trade, operating ground radar in the RAF for the 617 Dambusters and stepping in for workers during industrial disputes at his first full charge as a minister in the mining and manufacturing heartland of West Lothian.

His son David, an actor known for his roles as Dr Who and a detective in Broadchurch, was unable to attend the service but featured in a special video with other members of the family.

Over £2500 Accord Hospice in Paisley was raised with money still coming in.

Pope prays for Germanwings crash victims during Palm Sunday Mass



A girl holds palms before the start of Palm Sunday Mass

Pope Francis has prayed for those who died in the Germanwings tragedy at the conclusion of Palm Sunday Mass.

In the prayer, which the Pope said outside St Peter's Basilica, he made particular reference to the 16 German students who died when Flight 4U9525 crashed in the French Alps last week.

“I entrust to The Virgin Mary’s intercession the victims of Tuesday’s tragic plane crash,” he said in his Angelus address. “Those who died included a group of German students.”

An estimated 70,000 people gathered in St Peter's Square for the Mass at the start of Holy Week.

After the proclamation of the Passion according to St Mark, Pope Francis's homily reflected on the plight of Christians in the Middle East currently being persecuted by ISIS terrorists.

"We think too of our brothers and sisters who are persecuted because they are Christians, the martyrs of our own time," he said.

"They refuse to deny Jesus and they endure insult and injury with dignity. They follow Him on His way."

Anglican bishops commit to new climate justice agenda

A group of 17 Anglican bishops from all six continents has called for urgent prayer and action on the "unprecedented climate crisis". Their Declaration *The World Is Our Host: A Call to Urgent Action for Climate Justice* was released yesterday sets a new agenda on climate change for the 85 million-strong Anglican Communion.



Bishops meeting at the Volmoed Centre, South Africa

The group met in South Africa in February to build on months of conversations carried out via the internet. The group involved bishops both from cultures and nations that are major contributors to climate change, and those producing low levels of CO2 but disproportionately affected. Taking part were The Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church and Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane, the Most Revd David Chillingworth and The Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam.

The Archbishop of Cape Town and Primate of Southern Africa, the Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba, who brought the group together, said:

“We accept the evidence of science: Human activity, especially in fossil-fuel based economies, is the main cause of the climate crisis. We heard of extreme weather and changes to seasons; rising sea levels; acidification of seawater; depleted fishing grounds; and displaced people who are climate refugees.

“The problem is spiritual as well as economic, scientific and political. We have been complicit in a theology of domination. While God committed the care of creation to us, we have been care-less – but not hopeless.

“In the words of St Theresa of Avila, we are God’s hands and feet on earth – now is the time for us, rooted in prayer, to step up and take action on the climate crisis.”

The Declaration commits the bishops to specific first actions including: energy conservation measures in church buildings; more renewable energy; nurturing biodiversity on church land; supporting sustainability in water, food, agriculture and land use reviewing churches’ investment practices including a call for divestment; and closer ecumenical and interfaith co-operation.

The bishops commended the [Fast for the Climate](#) initiative, where they join many others in fasting and praying for the climate on the first of every month.

The bishops argue for ambitious and binding climate change agreements at national and international levels, and assistance for climate refugees.

Women, who make up the majority of the world's poorest are hit harder by climate change. The Rt Revd Ellinah Ntombi Wamukoya, Bishop of Swaziland and Africa's first woman bishop, said, "Women are more often dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, so the contribution of women is essential in decisions around climate change. Our communities must be equal, as in the Eucharist."

Canon Ken Gray, a Canadian priest who is Secretary of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network, said:

"It was a remarkable gathering, representative of the Communion's diversity. The Declaration is a unique and authoritative document which will pave the way towards greater collaboration amongst lay and clerical leaders as the communion as whole comes to terms with the

present climate crisis and our Gospel-driven need to respond compassionately.”

Download *The World Is Our Host: A Call to Urgent Action for Climate Justice* and [view images from the meeting](#).

Media digest

Mail/Star/Times

Reports that supermarkets have been accused of pursuing an 'anti-Christian agenda' after refusing to sell Easter eggs with a religious message. They state some of Britain's biggest stores have turned down products that mention Jesus, according to makers of The Real Easter Egg, which features Christian crosses on the box and contain a leaflet telling the story of the Resurrection. The Archbishop of York John Sentamu urged Sainsbury's, Asda and the Co-op to stock the charity eggs.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3016410/Archbishops-anger-Asda-Sainsbury-s-op-snob-Easter-eggs-featuring-Jesus-favour-Darth-Vader-Postman-Pat.html#ixzz3Vq6n4php>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/433461/Religious-leaders-fury-as-supermarkets-reject-CHRISTIAN-themed-Easter-eggs>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4396227.ece>

BBC

Report that the Bishop of Sheffield, Steven Croft, says preparations are under way for the Queen's visit to the city's cathedral for her Maundy Thursday service. It states the Queen will hand out Maundy money to 89 men and 89 women, and this is the first time the service has been held in Sheffield. Stephen Croft is quoted saying, "There's a real sense of anticipation now, and joy that this is happening in Sheffield this year."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-32106161>

Mail

Quotes of the week includes the new Bishop of Hull, Alison White, who when asked whether her husband - also an Anglican bishop - had any influence over her appointment, said: "The only word he put in for me was with God."

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3016507/JAMES-FORSYTH-Election-simple-s-Dave-versus-rest.html#ixzz3VqKtocna>

FT

Article that a slump in scrap prices, prompted by a global drop in demand, has significantly reduced the chances of metal theft. It states raids on church roofs, to strip copper and lead sheeting have also subsided with the price of

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scrap. Michael Angell, church operations
director at Ecclesiastical Insurance is quoted.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1f6b4998-d4a6-11e4-a87e-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=uk#axzz3VqLYli2Y>