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New Rector for Rostrevor chills out after seven years in Arctic

Brother David Jardine, Bishop McCartney and Bishop Miller

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Bishop Darren McCartney, his wife Karen, and their son Liam, have exchanged the Canadian Arctic for a beautiful corner of South Down.

Bishop Harold Miller instituted Darren as rector of Clonallon and Warrenpoint with Kilbroney on Tuesday 25 June in St Bronach's, Rostrevor.

Brother David Jardine, a longtime friend, gave the address.

Darren is returning to Down and Dromore after seven years as Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of the Arctic. Prior to that he was rector of Knocknamuckley, in Dromore Diocese.

During their time in northern Canada, Karen worked for the Nunavut Government as a Social Development Coordinator. They also became parents to Liam after waiting 17½ years.

“Having lived in a land of snow for 10 months of the year, we can't wait to see Liam processing the immense beauty of our native land, from flowers to trees, mountains to rain,” said Darren.

“For him to hear others speaking in a similar accent as his parents and for him to develop relationships with our families will be a real treat.”

Originally from Dundrod, a small farming community outside Belfast, Darren is familiar with his new surroundings at the southern edge of the Mourne.

As a 10-year old child, he remembers climbing up to the Hare's Gap and Slieve Bearnagh before returning to Leitrim

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Lodge, a place that he would visit often in his teenage years and well into his twenties with the Boy's Brigade and mountain leadership training.

Looking ahead to this new chapter of ministry Darren said: "I am very much looking forward to once again being located in a parish and investing in the ministry of the parish.

"It is a passion of mine to see the local church reaching out to all with the love of Christ. I love to see followers of Christ develop the gift or gifts that God has given them for this task. It is my desire to support and see people participate within the life of the community of faith.

"We are very much looking forward to making our home with you."

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St Patrick's Mourne mountain men from Coleraine and Ballymena

A hardy team of hikers from St Patrick's, Coleraine, and St Patrick's, Ballymena, spent the weekend walking 18 miles over seven peaks in the Mourne Mountains.

Each mountain was more than 700 metres high, and the hike, which began on Saturday morning, June 22, was expected to take up to 15 hours to complete.

The team comprised James McDowell, the Rev Stuart Lloyd, Alistair Taylor, David Green and William McCandless. The Rev Neill Cutcliffe accompanied the walkers for part of the way and Diane McDowell and Patricia Taylor played a supporting role.

They travelled to Meelmore Lodge Hostel on the edge of the Mourne Mountains on the Friday evening, and the Seven Sevens challenge began in earnest at Donard Park, Newcastle, at 7am the following morning.

The route took the walkers over Slieves Donard, Comedagh, Lamagan, Binnian, Meelbeg, Meelmore and Bernagh.

The team was raising funds, for the third consecutive year, for the Alzheimers Society, and all members have been in training since January.

James said: "St Patrick's Parish has recently conducted an Alzheimers friendly service on an afternoon. This allows people with dementia to come and express their faith in a

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comfortable place without having to worry about what others might think.”

Father Fintan Gavin to be ordained Bishop of Cork & Ross on Sunday

The celebration of Mass for the Episcopal Ordination of Father Fintan Gavin, the next Bishop of the Diocese of Cork and Ross will commence at 3.00pm on Sunday 30 June 2019, in the Cathedral of Saint Mary and Saint Anne in Cork City.

This will be the first ordination of a Catholic Bishop in Cork since 1984 when Bishop John Buckley was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese. Bishop Buckley’s resignation was accepted by Pope Francis (having reached the retirement age) on 8 April 2019, and Father Fintan Gavin, a priest of the Archdiocese of Dublin was appointed as his successor.

Father Fintan Gavin is 53 and has been a priest since 1991. He is the second eldest of seven brothers and sisters. He was born on the north side of Dublin. Until this appointment he served as the Chancellor of the Dublin Archdiocese and also served in Our Lady of Victories Parish, Dublin.

The Ordination Ceremony is the culmination of several weeks of planning by people from across the diocese and will be a joyous celebration for the people of Cork and Ross and for Father Fintan and his family and friends. Bishop Buckley will be the Principal Consecrator. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Archbishop Kieran O’Reilly will be the co-consecrators. People of all ages and from several

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parishes will be involved in the ceremony and are busy rehearsing singing, music, readings and prayers.

After Holy Communion, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland, together with Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA, Archbishop of Cashel and Emyly, will lead newly ordained Bishop Fintan Gavin, with his mitre and staff, through the cathedral to bless the congregation.

In attendance will be Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh; Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin; Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA of Cashel and Emyly; Bishop John Buckley.

Each of the 68 parishes of the diocese will have representatives at the ceremony.

Stranmillis launches Religious Education Certificate for students

Stranmillis University College recently launched a new Religious Education Certificate, which will be available to student teachers as part of its degree enhancement programme. The certificate allows students to be eligible to teach in Catholic maintained primary schools, and will be delivered by Stranmillis staff with the support of the college chaplains.

Dr Peter Hamill, Secretary to the Board of Education (Northern Ireland), attended the recent launch with representatives from a range of Churches, including Ms Rosemary Rainey, Chair of the Transferor Representatives' Council, and the Revd Barry Forde, Church of Ireland–Methodist Chaplain at Queen's University Belfast and Stranmillis.

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Dr Anne Heaslett (Principal, Stranmillis University College), Dr Peter Hamill (C of I Board of Education) and Miss Rosemary Rainey (Chair, Transferor Representatives' Council).

Dr Hamill said: 'It's a very positive step that Stranmillis is delivering this certificate to enable all students to be eligible for jobs in the maintained sector should they wish. It also further promotes the importance and role of Religious Education in the life of all schools.'

Hospital Chaplain upholds Church's Ministry of Healing

The Church's Ministry of Healing held its annual Service of Thanksgiving and gift day at Christ Church, Celbridge, on Sunday (June 23). The service was celebrated by the Rector, the Revd Stephen Neill, with the Revd Lesley

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Robinson. The speaker was Healthcare Chaplain, Hilda Plant.

Hilda, who is a Chaplain in St Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, said it was important to her to acknowledge the work of the Ministry of Healing. She recalled when her son was in hospital and said she was certain that it was the prayers of others that carried the family through the life and death situation. She said it was only some years later when she was training in clinical pastoral education that she acknowledged the miracle that her son had been completely healed and said the power of prayer must never be underestimated.

Using the theme of a river, she outlined the work of healthcare chaplains and in particular her role in a hospital setting. "We accompany those in need. We journey with them through the meanderings and the rapids and help them through the writhing waters that come with uncertainty, diagnosis or end of life care. We are privileged to assist with the spiritual and emotional care of family and staff and in entering the space of the patient's world as they navigate the waters of uncertainty most often emerging stronger, more aware of the links that surround them and of their unique role," she explained.

She said the ministry of chaplaincy brought them to people who are immersed, often quietly, with traditional Church of Ireland liturgies of Holy Communion, Psalms, Collects, readings and hymn singing. Where different people find comfort is unique to them, she commented.

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“Chaplaincy above all is about listening – hearing that which is spoken but most especially I think reading behind that which is not named, if appropriate helping people to name where they’re at – supporting, caring, holding in prayer or holding open a space to help them look at the landscape of their own lives. It’s always non–judgemental, non–threatening and always respectful,” Hilda said.

The Ministry of Healing, she stated, are a key to meeting the needs of so many. Each person involved in the ministry forms a huge part in assisting as intercessors and she gave thanks for the immense gift of prayer and faith.

South India’s youth experience interfaith peace-making

A cross cultural visit to Nepal for young people from the Church of South India (CSI) has revealed the impact of peacebuilding across different faith groups in Asia. Young people from the CSI, Pakistan and Nepal were part of a group of 22 young people who took part in a trip in May when they met with community leaders to learn how to take forward peace initiatives, especially in places like Sunsari which shares border with India.

Praveen Daniel, programme executive for CSI-SEVA (Social Empowerment: Vision in Action), said the group were shown the importance of interfaith peacebuilding programmes which were initiated and run by young people. He said: “some of the positive impact in the cross-border

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Some of the participants in the Church of South India cross cultural peace-building programme

peacebuilding initiatives was that there has been a reduction in crime rates in the community. We were shown how building the community reduces conflicts and ensures peaceful co-existence.”

The visit, which ran from 26 May to 1 June, was organised by United Mission to Nepal, which along with CSI-SEVA and seven other organisations are all part of the Local Capacities for Peace-South Asia network.

Young people from each country were able to share their peacebuilding experiences during the week. Mr Daniel said: “they also shared the difficulties during the process, that even if they can contribute better to a particular situation,

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they are sometimes given less importance because they are ‘young people’”.

Listening to a peace building group from a Muslim community running children’s clubs, the group heard how the children were informed about rights and responsibilities and that this had led to a huge dip in child marriages, which had been cut by 50 per cent in one province.

Meeting with the Magar community – one of the oldest indigenous tribes in Nepal – they saw a model of interfaith peace where they aim to have a community with five religions and a common place of worship. Mr Daniel said: “this whole idea left the group amazed as people couldn’t foresee such an inclusive peace model.”

June 27 - Today in Christian history

June 27, 444: Cyril, patriarch of Alexandria and author of several writings on the dual natures of Christ, dies. He opposed Nestorius, who supposedly taught there were two separate persons in the Incarnate Christ, one divine and the other human. Historians doubt, however, whether or not Nestorius actually taught this. In any case, Cyril deposed Nestorius in 430.

June 27, 1933: James Mountain, English revivalist and hymnwriter ("Like a River Glorious"), dies.

June 27 - News briefs

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+++ Christ Church Dublin, prayer evenings - On 17 July and 4 August, an opening prayer and short lectio divina meditation will take place between 7:00 and 7:30 pm

+++ Connor institution - The Rev Dennis Christie was instituted rector of the Grouped Parishes of Ahoghill and Portglenone at a service in St Colmanell's last night, Wednesday, June 26.

+++ Director of Music St Canice's, Kilkenny - Bartosz Thiede, has just been appointed Director of Music at St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny, and Master of Choirs at Kilkenny College, at the age of 22. This young Polish man attended St Colman's College Newry, and was a member of St Peter's Cathedral Schola Cantorum, Belfast, for which he travelled by bus three times a week (40 miles each way) to follow his passion for music. Bart graduated from Exeter College, Oxford, and is currently assistant fundraiser for the Monteverdi Choir. Sincere congratulations!

+++ St Patrick's Soup Kitchen Belfast - The Irish News reports that a soup kitchen on Belfast's Donegall Street has seen demand for its service increase ten-fold since it opened two years ago. St Patrick's Soup Kitchen initially served an average of 20 meals each weekend. However, two years on, it dishes out almost 250. Its operators say they may open some weekdays during the summer to ensure children are fed while schools are closed. They are also considering a drop-in facility from 23:30 until 07:00 because demand for emergency beds in the city is so high. 50 volunteers serve at the Soup Kitchen.

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+++ Food for thought - "We are always falling in love or quarreling, looking for jobs or fearing to lose them, getting ill and recovering, following public affairs. If we let ourselves, we shall always be waiting for some distraction or other to end before we can really get down to our work." CS Lewis

June 27 News Links

[Ooni Preaches Love & Peace As He Meets Nigerians In Dublin Ireland, Identifies Disunity As Bane ...](#)

The Nigerian Voice (press release) (blog)

Ooni Preaches Love & Peace As He Meets Nigerians In Dublin **Ireland**, ... Always remember the leader of the **church** Pastor Oke and family in your ...

[US Priest Performs Exorcism Outside Irish Abortion Clinic](#)

Church Militant

Imbarrato explained to **Church Militant** that he had no intentions to do any activism while in **Ireland**. Imbarrato was serving as spiritual director for an ...

[Peace Garden closed by yobs re-opens after nearly a decade](#)

[Herald.ie](#)

The 0.1 hectare space is located beside the ruins of the **Church** of St Nicholas ... burial ground in Belgium, as well as from the four provinces of **Ireland**.

[Kaija Saariaho: An intense moment-by-moment fragile and mysterious soundworld](#)

Irish Times

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In her first visit to Ireland, the leading Finnish composer was guest of ... the first in Dundalk Gaol and the second in St Nicholas **Church of Ireland**.

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