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**CNI**  
CHURCH  
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IRELAND



## **Launch of *Fallen* in St Patrick's Cathedral to mark end of World War 1**

On Thursday evening at 7.30pm the official launch of *Fallen* will take place in St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, to mark the

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end of World War I. The evening will reflect on World War 1 and its historical and cultural impact and feature a short talk by historian and author Turtle Bunbury, poetry readings, and music performed by David Leigh and a Cathedral Chorister. Mr Bryan Dobson will compère the evening. This event is free of charge but advance registration is required.

Video of installation in progress at -

<https://www.facebook.com/stpatrickscathedral/videos/vb.37427412139/175743723357780/?type=2&theater>

## **Irish Churches make plans for Brexit**

Members of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting (IICM) are making preparations for how to best support their local communities during Brexit.

The IICM, a high-level partnership between the Catholic Church and the Irish Council of Churches, explained in a letter earlier this month that an initial planning meeting had taken place in June 2018.

Following this a draft framework was prepared that outlined areas of concern, relevant resources and experience within the churches, as well as possible actions that might be taken.

Signed by its co-chairs, Bishop Brendan Leahy and Rev. Brian Anderson, the letter invited “groups within our member churches, local inter-church groups and partner organisations to contribute to the further development on this framework by responding to the enclosed consultation document”.

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**Archbishop Martin of Armagh and Bishop McKeon of Derry were welcomed by Ambassador Saly Axworthy (centre) at the UK embassy to the Holy See during their recent attendance at the Synod. Also present was Irish Ambassador Derek Hannon**

The 25-page consultation document entitled *Brexit and the Irish Churches – Pastoral Dimensions* included input from senior ecumenical figures. “Having adjusted to the creation of two distinct political jurisdictions on the island almost a century ago, our churches should be confident of overcoming whatever stresses lie ahead, and we believe that as part of civil society we have a role to play in supporting our members in what is likely to be a protracted



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period of some difficulty,” wrote Dr Kenneth Milne in its introduction.

Writing about the context of the Churches’ approach to Brexit, Dr Peter McDowell noted the unique position of Northern Ireland in the EU because of its land border with the Republic, and the Good Friday Agreement which “gives citizens of Northern Ireland certain rights not available to other UK or Irish citizens, such as dual citizenship”.

“The Agreement has also provided a framework within which various communities have felt their identity to be recognised and protected,” he wrote.



**Bishop Noel Treanor (second from left) of Down & Connor, took part in the recent European bishops conference in Ypres and Brussels.**



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“The member churches of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting are all Ireland bodies representing local parishes and congregations in both jurisdictions. Their membership includes people with a wide range of opinions on Brexit, so there will often be disagreement within churches about specific policies and proposals. There are however core values and practices arising out of the Gospel that will lie at the heart of all the churches’ contributions at every level of engagement, from informing the opinions of individual members, to official contributions by the churches, to governments and institutions.”

Among these values are an understanding of the common good and social justice, and the need to seek reconciliation in the face of divisive issues, Dr McDowell wrote. He stressed the value of pastoral care and support at local level offered by churches, and the hope offered by faith. “In the face of uncertainty the Church is a community of faith and hope and so will engage constructively throughout the Brexit process – and so with a view to also being constructively engaged when the process is over, no matter what the outcome.”

Challenges caused by Brexit would be felt at a local, regional and international level and the churches had a role to play in all of these areas. On the local level “preparing individuals for that change and supporting them through the process should be a key objective”. In particular, attention should be paid to tackling polarisation and resourcing pastoral care, wrote Dr McDowell.

In the conclusion to the document, Bishop Noel Treanor wrote that alongside civil society, the churches had a key

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role to play in helping their communities through the Brexit process.

“In this anteroom to politics the churches, espousing no interest other than the common good of the entire human family and a politics responsive to the issues and culture of our time and our interdependent global condition, have a shared responsibility to create contexts and spaces of encounter, exchange and understanding.”

Responses to [the consultation document](#) are requested by 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Church of Ireland Historical Society autumn meeting**

The autumn meeting of the Church of Ireland Historical Society will be held in the Music Room of Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, on Saturday 3 November 2018 beginning with coffee and registration at 10.30am.

In the morning session Professor Steven Ellis, Emeritus Professor of History in NUI Galway and a member of the General Synod, will talk about ‘Sacred space and “true religion”: the Irish Reformation and the Collegiate church of St Nicholas, Galway’ and this will be followed at noon by a research paper by Ms Marion Rogan, a doctoral student in Maynooth, on ‘Promoting an Irish-speaking ministry in the Church of Ireland in the nineteenth century: William Bedell scholarships and Collegiate schools’. After lunch Dr Ciara Boylan, author of a recently published study of Richard Whately published by Four Courts Press, will discuss

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‘Archbishop Richard Whately (1787–1863): a churchman in Ireland in the age of reform’ and the day will conclude with a paper by Dr Niamh NicGhabhann, from the University of Limerick. entitled “‘Went to see the poor church dismantled. Mr D. got some of the oak”: medieval architecture, identity and the Church of Ireland during the nineteenth century’.

Intending participants can register online at <http://churchofirelandhist.org/membership>. If you wish to become a member the annual subscription was fixed last year at €40 (or £35). This includes admission to the bi-annual conferences, lunch, book discounts, and exclusive access to the Society’s podcasts. Non-members are most welcome. They are asked to subscribe €10 (or £7) at the door to assist with conference expenses (lunch not included).

Queries may be either addressed to the honorary secretary, Dr Adrian Empey, by email at: [secretary.coihs@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.coihs@gmail.com) or visit the society’s website: <http://churchofirelandhist.org/>. The Church of Ireland Historical Society exists to promote scholarly interest in the history of the Church, and to facilitate publication.

## **Blessing of Roads ceremony at Ennis**

Bishop Fintan Monahan urged all road users to take extra care – especially pedestrians – over this October bank holiday weekend in the Republic. Following mass in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Ennis a ‘Blessing of the Roads’ ceremony was performed and prayers offered for the safety of all road users.



Bishop Monahan said, “All human life is both sacred and fragile. Alarming, for 2018 to date, 120 people have died on our roads. The largest cohort of deaths relate to drivers at 52, followed by pedestrians at 32, then passengers at 18, motorcyclists at 11 and pedal cyclists at 7. This loss of life is avoidable.”

Bishop Monahan continued, “I firmly believe that prayer and reflection can change our driving behaviour, calm our aggression, remind us of the spiritual, moral and physical importance of what we are about to do.

“Bank holiday weekends are high risk times on our roads and especially so as clocks go back this weekend. In this context, pedestrians are particularly vulnerable and have a responsibility to be visible. Road deaths are preventable with care, attention and vigilance. It is always heart-breaking for me to hear of a life lost on our roads. Each of us has a responsibility when we get behind the wheel to ensure we are not putting lives at risk”. Report from Churches in Ireland.

## **“What’s the Story” Lives in Direct Provision**

The chief IT engineer of a national university, a marketing executive and a lecturer in fine art ... if you talk to people who are in direct provision you never know what you’ll encounter, Damian Jackson writes.

Earlier this month I went to an event in Christ Church Cathedral where I met these three people. It was part of the

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second series of “What’s the Story?” evenings hosted there. These events give us the opportunity to hear the stories of people who are in direct provision.

What really hit me between the eyes was the waste of this system. Waste of money, waste of time, but most of all a waste of talent. Thousands of gifted, eager people forced to sit idle for an indeterminate length of time a “life of restriction” as Stixie, our chief IT engineer dubbed it.

While his skills were wilting on the vine as he tried to keep his morale up by volunteering and doing courses, Joe was painting to guard his mental state. He taught fine art but hadn’t practiced it for a long time. So he spent his €19.10 per week on paper, paint and brushes and now shows and sells his work. He’d love to have a gallery to display his work and to give painting classes to children.

Khalib is a gregarious man whom you can easily imagine working in marketing. He set up his own business and had bought a house by the age of 25. His initiative and energy are contagious.

Whilst the recent initiative to give some asylum seekers the right to work is welcome, it does come with restrictions which mean that none of these people can participate in it and therefore we don’t, as a country, benefit from their passion, skills and drive.

While even such a cost–benefit analysis of the effects of direct provision reveals its failures, as Katie Heffelfinger of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute pointed out afterwards, the stories of these three men show that that kind of analysis is completely inadequate. For the most fundamental failure of direct provision is that it attacks the

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intrinsic worth of each individual human being, made in the image of God, who goes through it. So as Christians we need to see the face of the other, to hear their stories, and to advocate for the restoration of their dignity and agency so that they can flourish as participants in community and family.

That evening Stixie said that he was not talking to the right people: the people in the room already had opened ears. Therefore we who were sitting there have an obligation to tell the stories to others, to reveal the faces of those we saw, and the stories we heard, so that others can encounter, even indirectly, the person trapped in a “life of restriction” in direct provision. With encounter comes transformed attitudes, and many people with transformed attitudes can push for transformed systems.

## **Faith, power, gender and abuse – Rubicon 2018 tackles difficult Issues**

The challenging issues of how faith interacts with power, gender and abuse were the focus of Rubicon 2018 which took place on Saturday (October 20) in Dublin’s Sugar Club. Rubicon is a yearly conversation which explores the interplay of faith and culture and this year the conversation turned to the #MeToo #ChurchToo movements. Rubicon never lets its participants off the hook and is designed to be a thought provoking experience. Those present were encouraged to consider what it means to speak the truth and seek justice as communities of faith.



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Led out by keynote speaker Scot McKnight, American Anglican theologian, historian, author and New Testament professor, Rubicon heard contributions from Noeline Blackwell of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, activist and advocate Marie Collins, Vox magazine editor Ruth Garvey-Williams, Ally McGeever of the YWCA, activist and theologian Jarrod McKenna and performance artist and writer Feli Speaks.

Scot McKnight spoke about the culture of church and in particular cultures of celebrity created within churches. He asked what kind of structure is formed when an institution is not interested in truth and he urged churches to “believe women, listen to what they have to say”.

He said members of churches must work hard to form cultures of goodness within their churches.

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Scot contended that churches and their leaders had become immune to critique because of celebrity culture. “Churches and leaders combine to form cultures of celebrity. The same culture in Rome is no different from today and it’s this culture that Paul subverted in churches,” he stated encouraging members of churches to be subverters to nurture a different culture. “Christian power is not power over. It is power with. It is power for. May we form cultures of christoformity instead of cultures of celebrity,” he added.

During July and August, Vox magazine in partnership with YWCA Ireland launched an in–depth online survey into the **Australian activist and theologian Jarrod McKenna at Rubicon in the Sugar Club**

experiences of and attitudes towards women in churches and Christian ministries across Ireland. Vox’s editor, Ruth Garvey–Williams spoke at Rubicon about gender and equality in the Irish church context. She asked: “Is Christianity expressing itself as good news for women in Ireland?” and pointed out that the main ministries in our churches are gender specific.

Among the findings of their research Ruth highlighted that 61 percent of women had heard sexist jokes in church. The findings also suggested that while people condemned rape they were blind to rape culture. “Abuse thrives when we favour reputation, power and privilege,” she said.

Ruth Garvey–Williams was joined by Noeleen Blackwell of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and Ally McGeever, Young Women’s Engagement and Development Officer with the [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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YWCA for the panel discussion which looked at #MeToo and the church. It was suggested that it might be necessary to look outside the church for help in responding to abuse.

Noeleen Blackwell said that the challenge was to deal with the hidden violence. “It’s not a new problem. We are on the threshold of opening the door again on a deep conversation on the hidden violence of abuse that is built into our society and our churches,” she said.

Ally McGeever spoke of the importance of talking about abuse. “There are Christian abusers. There are Christian survivors of abuse. We need to have these conversations in our churches,” she said. Ruth Garvey–Williams looked at the importance of the church’s response to abuse. “Instead of hearing, ‘I’m so sorry that happened to you’ we too often hear, ‘Are you sure that happened to you?’” she said.



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Marie Collins, a survivor of abuse who spoke to Pope Francis during his visit to Ireland, spoke of her own experience of abuse. “When I told my abuser that I wasn’t comfortable and wanted him to stop, he replied that he was a priest and therefore nothing he did could be wrong. I came to believe that if it wasn’t his fault, it must be mine,” she said.

She said that she spoke out about her abuse because “I felt not only that it was necessary that people know, but that things had to change. And you can’t change things by staying silent”.

### **Feli Speaks closes Rubicon 2018**

Marie had suggestions for the future. “The way forward is to look at what in the institution allowed men to protect someone who would abuse a child. They need to deal with anyone within the church that feels that it is right to protect an abuser... It was the reputation of the institution that came before the safety of the child,” she said.

She still had faith but had lost faith in the institution, she stated but added that there was hope. “The hope is not in the church and the institution. The hope is in the people who challenge the institution. We have all got to take responsibility for those more vulnerable than ourselves. If someone knows things are happening you’ve got to stand up and say it’s not right. Do anything to get your voice heard. You have to be persistent,” she stated.

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Australian pastor and activist, Jarrod McKenna, talked about a Jesus who says he will not tolerate abuse and said that the church should be an alternative to the rotten system that allowed cover ups. He spoke about his own experience of abuse and said it would not have been possible if the church had been a church rather than colluding in abuse.

He pointed to the 'Good Samaritan' and said Christians were not invited to be a good Samaritan but to learn from the "hated other" rather than to cross the road to get away from them, to be in close proximity with those who are broken and bleeding on the side of the road. "Theologies of sacrifice survive on 'us and them'. Jesus breaks that down and invites us to see us as them," he explained.

The day closed with a moving and passionate contribution from spoken word artist, poet and writer, Feli Speaks. The Nigerian born, Longford raised artist performed five poems which speak about her story, activism and justice. "My motive wasn't just to make you cry but to get you to think and go through the layers of these issues," she said.

Rubicon, co-founded by Greg Fromholz and the Revd Rob Jones is a collaborative initiative of Holy Trinity, Rathmines and the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough Young Adults Ministry. It is Directed by Greg, with the team made up of DCU's Dr James Gallen, UCD Chaplain Scott Evans, Revd Rob Jones and Ann Mara, who compared the day.

Video content of this year's Rubicon and the previous six Rubicons is available at

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[www.wearerubicon.com](http://www.wearerubicon.com). Rubicon 2019 will take place on October 19 in the Sugar Club, Dublin.

## **News briefs**



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**Major renovation of St Eunan's Cathedral in Raphoe planned**

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



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The Dean of Raphoe has revealed plans for a major renovation of St Eunan's Cathedral in Raphoe which will cost an estimated €650,000.

The 'Renovation Project 2020' plans were unveiled by the Very Rev Arthur Barrett on Friday evening at an event at which a new, specially commissioned short film about the cathedral was premiered and a fund-raising campaign was launched to help pay for the improvements.

Dean Barrett says an extensive programme of works is required and the cathedral will have to close for seven months, from April until October 2020, during which time services will be held in the nearby Cathedral Hall.

"As part of our fund-raising plan we hope to spread the story of St Eunan, his cathedral and the church far and wide. We want people across the world – literally – to hear about the cathedral city of Raphoe, about St Eunan, about our cathedral church and our renovation plans, and hopefully be sufficiently interested to make a donation."

### **Down team returns from Egypt**

The 3 man team from [Hillsborough Parish Church](#) and [Drumbeg Parish Church](#) are coming to the end of their visit with our Partners in the Diocese of Egypt. They've had a wonderful few days of both fellowship and ministry to the Diocesan clergy at their annual retreat in Anaphora, just outside of Cairo. Between them they have delivered 9 sessions on Church History, Mission and Sermon crafting to Bishops, clergy and lay readers from across the entire Diocese. Nigel writes, "The Church in Egypt faces many challenges but having a great group of men and women serving within it, is having an overwhelming impact". Pray

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that this visit  
by Rev Bryan  
Follis, Rev  
Willie Nixon  
and Nigel  
Quinn will have  
been a  
blessing and  
source of  
mutual



encouragement! Rev Willie as preached yesterday  
afternoon at the Sudanese congregation in the Cathedral.  
Safe journey home

## **Irish Youth Ministry Gathering 2019**

Unlock the potential of churches and families to journey  
with our young people through effective youth ministry -  
syas CIYD. Whether you are a church leader, a youth group  
volunteer, a full-time youth worker or simply a champion of  
youth ministry, it is your influence that impacts discipleship  
of the next generation. Assembly Buildings, Belfast is where  
you need to be next May – save the date!

Three days of teaching, equipping, worship and prayer to  
celebrate and inspire life-changing ministry with young  
people in Ireland.

Info at [iymg.org](http://iymg.org) || Tickets in 2019.

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**Book now for 'Engage!'** with Diane Holt at this year's Church Life event in Assembly Buildings, Belfast on Tuesday 13 November. [www.churchresourcesonline.com](http://www.churchresourcesonline.com)  
An inspirational day for Clergy, Church leaders and members.

### **Bake Bread for Peace**

A 'Bake Bread for Peace' procession will begin in Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, on Tuesday at 1pm and proceed to St Patrick's cathedral. There the participants will gather in the Lady Chapel where they will break bread and share recipes and stories. This event is free and all are welcome.

### **Chilling music for All Hallows' Eve**

In St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, on Wednesday at 6.15pm there will be a candlelit recital of suitably chilling music for All Hallows' Eve, including Saint-Saen's *Danse Macabre* and Bach's *Tocatta Fugue in D Minor*, with a retiring collection for Barnardo's.

### **Milltown Art Sale and Exhibition**

In St Philip's church, Milltown, Dublin, at 7.30pm an Art Sale and Exhibition which will be opened at which the Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Ms Josepha Madigan, will speak. It will continue on Friday, 12–7pm, Saturday 3 November 10am–6pm and Sunday 4 November 12.30–4pm.

### **Praise and thanksgiving theme for Crosshaven flower festival**





As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations in Templebreedy Parish Church in Crosshaven, County Cork, a flower festival was held recently.

There were amazing displays of flowers put together on the theme 'in Praise and thanksgiving'.

The festival was officially opened on Friday evening by Mrs. Mary C. O' Keefe former

president of A.O.I.F.E (Association of Irish Floral Artists). The Church was truly transformed and amazed all who came to see and enjoy. The Church porch was decorated beautifully by the Templebreedy School children, displays by parishioners, friends and flower club artists from across the county. The festival was aptly closed with a Harvest Thanksgiving Service Sunday afternoon. A former rector, Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum, was welcomed back as guest preacher.

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