



*St MacCartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen*

## **Orange Order fills cathedrals to capacity for remembrance**

On Sunday past members of the Orange Order paraded to cathedrals and churches to attend services of remembrance of those members who had been killed 100 years ago in the Battle of the Somme, and also those members who were

killed during the recent decades of trouble in Northern Ireland.

Social media users commented on the attendance. A C of I cleric present in Armagh Cathedral, said, “Not even standing room at evensong today, they're standing outside trying to get in. Even nook and cranny of the cathedral is packed!”

Another responded, “Dromore Cathedral packed to capacity as well. Fabulous young organist, Orly Watson”

A C of I cleric at St MacCartin’s Cathedral said, “Enniskillen Cathedral overflowing into the nearby Methodist hall. Remembering the 37000 Orange men who died in World War 1. Also remembered the 31 members murdered by Sinn Fein / PIRA. Not one conviction for these 31 murders or indeed for almost another 70 Unionists murdered in the county. The sermon by the curate of Enniskillen was about dignity, faith and being remembered by God.”

Tom Elliott, MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, said, “What a great statement from Fermanagh Orangeism today, over 1,000 on parade and attended the service in Enniskillen Cathedral to remember the 31 members of the

Orange Order in Fermanagh who were brutally murdered by terrorists between 1971 - 1993. The event had an added significance with the proceedings also remembering the fallen at the Somme 100 years ago.”

## **Catholic college in Belfast hosts Orange Order seminar**

Last week, a Catholic teaching training college in West Belfast welcomed members of the Orange Order to speak to students of Geography and Religion about their culture.

It was a first time that St Mary’s University College on Belfast’s Falls Road took part in such an event.

Two members of the Orange Order gave a presentation about its history to the university seminar.

David Scott and Dr Jonathan Mattison spent over an hour speaking to and taking questions from about 25 staff and students and received a polite and enthusiastic welcome.

St Mary’s educates many students who become teachers in Catholic maintained schools.

Speaking to the BBC, Professor Peter Finn, the college's principal, said building a relationship with the Order was good for the students.

“St Mary’s is a university institution of higher education in the Catholic tradition, but that doesn’t mean to say we can’t engage,” he said.

“We seek to develop in our student teachers attitudes and values which are positive to other people.”

“We have put in place a project enabling our geography students to learn more about the Order, the traditions of that culture and to enable them to see another perspective.”

Some students who attended Wednesday’s seminar had recently visited the Museum of Orange Heritage in east Belfast.

Mr Scott and Dr Mattison spoke about the Order’s traditions, its past and its outreach work. They answered questions from the audience, and some of the exchanges were frank.

Qualifications for membership of the Orange Order state that prospective member “should strenuously oppose the fatal errors and doctrines of the Church of Rome, and scrupulously avoid countenancing (by his

presence or otherwise) any act or ceremony of popish worship.”

However, Orangemen are also told to refrain “from all uncharitable words, actions, or sentiments” towards Roman Catholics.

Mr Scott said the Order was a pro-Protestant rather than an anti-Catholic organisation.

“That doesn’t prevent us from building relationships with our neighbours,” he said.

“And it’s critical that we do that. We find exercises like this very, very valuable, and if we can make a single step of this change through this process we want to do it.”

“We’re not going to change the mindset of everybody, we’ll never do that. This is a very powerful relationship we have with St Mary’s, but we’ve found that the engagement with the maintained schools sector has been very, very successful.”

While the relationship between the university and the Order is in its relatively early stages, representatives of the two institutions say they are committed to developing it further.

## **PCI represented at General Assembly of United Mission to Nepal**

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) will be represented at this week's General Assembly of United Mission to Nepal (UMN), by Helen Johnston, PCI's Mission Support Officer, who departed this week on a short visit to Nepal. Helen is no stranger to Nepal. She previously served with UMN from 1996 to 2003 in a number of roles within their Personnel Department, in their headquarters in Kathmandu, during which time she travelled to various parts of the country in connection with her work.

Established in 1954, UMN is a cooperative effort between the people of Nepal and a number of Christian organisations from around the globe, including PCI. Nepali nationals – and expatriate staff – partner with local organisations in a number of areas of the country, building and encouraging development and capacity to promote healthy, strong and empowered individuals, families and communities.

“Over the past year, UMN has done a tremendous amount of work providing humanitarian relief and demonstrating God's



heart for those affected by last year's devastating earthquakes, and is still very much engaged in the ongoing rebuilding efforts.

"I also look forward to being part of a key transition for UMN, as Joel Hafvenstein, UMN's Executive Director Designate prepares to take over from Mark Galpin in June," Helen said.

Following UMN's General Assembly meeting, Helen will lead a retreat for the PCI mission

personnel currently serving in Nepal – [Stephen and Laura Coulter](#) from Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church in east Belfast, and [Peter and Valerie Lockwood](#) and family from First Bangor Presbyterian Church.

During her visit to Nepal, Helen will also meet with Nepali church leaders and various UMN staff. The General Assembly of United Mission to Nepal takes place in Kathmandu on 25th and 26th May.

## **[Slovak nun, shot in South Sudan, dies in Nairobi hospital](#)**

A Slovak nun shot and wounded in Yei, South Sudan, died May 20 at a hospital in Nairobi. Holy Spirit Missionary Sister Veronika Terezia Rackova, director of St Bakhita Medical Center in Yei, was evacuated to Nairobi on May 17, shortly after the nighttime shooting. She had been in a coma before her death.

Outside the intensive care unit at the hospital, Sister Maria Jerly, regional superior for the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, told Catholic News Service (CNS) that Sister Rackova was shot as people marked John Garang Day. She said Sister Rackova was driving an ambulance after



taking an expectant mother to the hospital when the vehicle was shot by soldiers patrolling the area. Sister Rackova was shot in the stomach, Sister Jerly said. She added that a motive for the shooting was not known.

Three soldiers were arrested in connection with the incident, and Sister Jerly added, "One of them is said to have admitted having shot at Sister Rackova."

Six of the order's nuns are serving in South Sudan, mainly in the Yei Diocese. Sister Jerly told CNS the congregation did not plan to leave the area.

"On the contrary, we would like to continue giving services to the needy people of this great country of South Sudan," she said, adding, "Some of our sisters are right now tormented over the incident, but we plan to continue to carry our badly needed services by the needy people of this country."

Sister Jerly said Sister Rackova would be buried in Kenya, and that the Divine Word Fathers, the sisters' male counterparts in Kenya, would handle the arrangements.

The C of I Diocese of Connor has a link with the Anglican diocese of Yei, and exchange visits have been held.

## **‘Out of the Mist’ art exhibition in Lurgan**



Artist and author Victor McMullen is pictured chatting to William Carson at ‘Out of the Mist’, an exhibition of Victor’s paintings which opened this morning in Lurgan.

Visitors from Lurgan, Portadown and Belfast filled the upper room in the Wesley Trust Building

to view the wonderful array of pictures, all of which are for sale in aid of Craigavon Area Hospital's Mandeville Unit and the Methodist Container Ministry. Not surprisingly, business was brisk.

Also for sale were copies of Victor's anthology, *Life is a Present*, described as 'a personal collection of poems, prose and pictures reflecting the unexpected parables that may daily surround each one of us'.

As with the paintings, the booklets are raising funds for the Mandeville Unit which provides cancer care and the Container Ministry which sends medical, educational and vocational supplies to third world countries.

'Out of the Mist' will continue today until 6.00pm, and tomorrow, Wednesday 25th May from 10.00am-8.00pm in The Wesley Trust Building, 17a High Street, Lurgan.

## **Crisis confronts main churches : Irish Times comment**

The Irish Times View stated yesterday - Institutional Christianity in Ireland is in crisis. All our main churches are experiencing similar

patterns of ageing congregations and clergy, falling attendance at liturgies, and a diminishing presence of the working class. They, of whichever denomination, are becoming the preserve of the middle class and the elderly.

At its General Assembly in Belfast last year it was revealed that membership of the [Presbyterian Church](#), the largest Protestant denomination in Northern Ireland, had dropped 40 per cent since the 1970s. At its General Synod in Armagh, the [Church of Ireland](#) – the largest Protestant denomination on the island of Ireland – disclosed that average attendance at its services on three consecutive Sundays in November 2013 was 58,000. It represents 15 per cent of church membership, with just 13 per cent of those worshippers aged between 12 and 30.

Where the Roman [Catholic Church](#) is concerned, by far the largest Christian denomination on the island, a 2012 Ipsos MRBI poll showed that just 17 per cent of its 18-34 year olds attended Mass weekly. It found that 34 per cent of Irish Catholics attended weekly Mass. That was then. Figures published last January showed that weekly Mass attendance levels in Dublin are now 20-22 per cent, and as low as 2-3 per cent in working-class parishes. It was projected that

those figures will drop by more than one- third in the next 15 years.

The number of Catholic priests in Ireland dropped 43 per cent in the 20 years to 2015. Numbering 2,019, their average age is approaching 65. Just 80 are studying for the Catholic priesthood in Ireland, compared to 526 in 1990. The Dominicans are leaving Drogheda after 791 years and the Augustinians are departing New Ross in Co Wexford after 695 years. What dungeon, fire and sword failed to do, has happened through a lack of vocations.

Yet against this background of seemingly endless decline, the majority of Irish people claim allegiance to one church or other in poll after poll and in recent censuses. Census 2016 is unlikely to be hugely different. What appears to be changing is the nature of people's adherence to the churches in Ireland. They may only attend on special occasions or to mark significant rites of passage but still describe themselves as members. They appear to be reverting to early 19th-century patterns of adherence when both clergy and churches were fewer.

The committed church person, upset at all of this, may take the broader view and see in it the

normal ebb and flow of religious practice as has been happening through the centuries. For them it is a time when there is greater call on two of the three primary virtues – faith and hope – as opposed to charity. Others may look to the future with greater trepidation.

## **New bold tartan for Church of Scotland women**



***Associate Secretary Eilidh Marks models a Guild tartan print dress***

The Church of Scotland Guild has created its own special tartan - a striking design that

reflects its three year strategy motto "be bold, be strong".

The blue and red weave, which has been registered with the Scottish Tartans Authority, was unveiled at the Heart and Soul festival in Princes Street Gardens yesterday - part of the Kirk's annual General Assembly.

The tartan, woven by Ingles Buchan in Glasgow and designed by Brian Wilson, commemorates the establishment of the organisation, regarded as a key pillar of the Kirk, by the Rev Dr Archibald Hamilton Charteris in 1887.

The square blue and red block is from the 1842 Hamilton tartan, grey is from the 1831 Clergy tartan, red is the corporate colour of the Guild and the Christian cross in blue represents the Church and the Saltire flag.

## News briefs

The President of the Methodist Church, Rev Brian Anderson spent last Sunday with **Movilla Abbey** congregation, Newtownards, as they shared a Wonderful Flower Festival with the community.

The President commented, “Based on 10 well known hymns the church was transformed to a place of colour and creativity. I was struck by the memory tree that went with The Lords my Shepherd. Beautiful display of sheep looking for a shepherd through flower. It was most encouraging to see such a inter generational congregation.

“I appreciated Rev Michael Spence's thoughtful leading of worship, that sought to engage the congregation with their Saviour. He included opportunities for people to respond to the challenge of the Word. A congregation clearly on the move in the right direction.”

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Pope Francis has placed pilgrimage at the heart of the Jubilee year of Mercy. Bishop Donal of Derry diocese will lead **3 pilgrimages to Lough Derg** this summer: 17th - 19th June; 5th - 7th August and a walking pilgrimage from 15th - 17th June. For more information and bookings please contact 02871264087 or [ddcc@derrydiocese.org](mailto:ddcc@derrydiocese.org)

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The death has taken place of **Mrs Hannah Jones**, widow of Rev Canon Warren Jones, [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)



former rector of St Mark's, Ballymacash, Lisburn and canon of Belfast Cathedral. Mrs Jones was a former vice - president of the Mothers' Union in Connor, a district commissioner in the Guide movement, and a member of the board of governors in several Lisburn schools. She is survived by her three sons and their families. The funeral will take place after a service in St Mark's at 1.30 pm on Wednesday.

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Community and comprehensive schools under Catholic patronage need to be prepared for a time when religious instruction and worship may not be required by students, the secretary general of the Department of Education has said. Speaking to a meeting of the **Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools**, [Seán Ó Foghlú](#) said the 150 or so community and comprehensive secondary schools under religious patronage are legally obliged under deeds to serve the entire community. Many people in the past considered community schools as Catholic schools, he said. However, rapid changes in society – including different faith traditions and a decrease in religious practice – posed a challenge for these schools to become multid denominational in nature. “There is an obligation to enrol regardless of faith

tradition or none. Furthermore the religious education or worship to be provided is not determined by the wishes of a patron but the obligation in the deed to provide for the religious needs of those who actually attend the school,” said Mr Ó Foghlú.

## **Cathedral, choral and musical**

**St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast**, was filled with the sound of joyous young voices along with some beautiful instrumental music during the **Choir School Concert** on Sunday May 22.

The concert featured around 30 children from the Cathedral’s three north Belfast choir schools, Edenbrooke, Sacred Heart and Cliftonville Integrated Primary Schools. St Anne’s singing teachers have been working in these schools for the past three years, introducing choral singing to children aged 5-11.

Some of the pupils have progressed to the Cathedral’s Junior Girls’ and Boys’ Choirs, and members of these choirs also part in Sunday’s concert, augmenting their usual sacred repertoire with some fun songs especially for the occasion.

In an entertaining programme, representatives of the Boys' Choir sang *Lead Me Lord*, and were followed by the Junior Girls' singing *The White Paternoster*. Talented pianists Caity and Katie performed *Dance of the Shepherd Girls* as a duet and also performed piano solos.

Tania Murphy, a member of the Senior Girls' Choir, sang a solo *Music for a While*. Tania recently sang for Royalty in a concert featuring choristers from 60 cathedrals in St Paul's in London.

The Cliftonville Choir sang three very entertaining songs, *Oleo*, *Wish* and *What Makes a Family*, and Cormac, a very talented young gentleman, played *Boat to Inverie* beautifully on violin.

The audience was spellbound by Zoe McGarry on the Irish Harp – Zoe played *Rites of Man*, *The Last Dance*, and *The Musical Priest*.

The concert closed with further songs from the Junior Girls and the Boys.

There were gifts for some of the children who move on this year, and a special thank you for Anne Woodfield, who is leaving the Cathedral to do teacher training.

Wishing Anna all the best in her future career, Cathedral singing tutor Catherine Harper said: “We are going to be bereft without her. She has managed to get around every discipline and she works very hard and knows the children so well.”

The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, expressed thanks to Catherine, to music tutor Therese Woodfield, to the girls from the Senior Choir who had helped out and to Master of the Choristers David Stevens.

“We would love this project to continue and to grow,” Dean Mann said.

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There will be a special series of concerts and services in **St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick** to over the weekend of 28th and 29th May to celebrate the History and Heritage of St. Mary's.

Concert and Service Details

Saturday May 28th

5 p.m. Cathedral Choirs of Kilkenny, Waterford, and St. Mary's

Admission €10, €8 for concessions. The money will go to cover costs.

Sunday May 29th

11.15 a.m. Sunday Festival Eucharist

3 p.m. Limerick Wind Ensemble play Mozart's  
Gran Partita K 361

Admission: Free.

7 p.m. Sunday Festival Evensong

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**Peter Stobart (St Fin Barre's Cathedral)** will lead a choral conducting worship and participants will be able to bring along a piece which they are willing to conduct and then workshop it, with the rest of the participants forming the choir. The event will run from 10.30am - 12.30pm, and then 2pm - 4pm. The cost for the day is €15. When - Saturday, 18 June 2016 from 10:30 to 16:00 (CDT) Where - St Fin Barre's Cathedral - Bishop Street, Cork, Ireland

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

### **BBC/Tel/York Post/Premier**

The Archbishop of York has completed a six-month pilgrimage around the North East of England (see above). He began his journey in

Whitby, North Yorkshire, in December and completed the 2,000-mile pilgrimage at York Minster yesterday with a service where 22 new priests were ordained. During his travels, Archbishop Sentamu is thought to have met around 20,000 people, spending six days in each of the 21 deaneries of the Diocese. In the Sunday Telegraph article, the Archbishop talks about the profound impact the pilgrimage has had on him and recounts some of the moving events he experienced 'on the road'.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-36353176>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/22/six-months-and-2661-square-miles-what-the-archbishop-of-york-lea/>

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/video-journey-s-end-as-archbishop-returns-home-to-york-1-7924965>

<https://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Archbishop-of-York-completes-six-month-pilgrimage>

## **Yorkshire Post**

Comments of Archbishop Sentamu's Pilgrimage observing, "Yorkshire, and also the Church of England, is blessed to be in the presence of such an inspirational individual who continues to

lead by deed and example rather than pontificate from the sidelines."

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/opinion/yp-comment-amazing-grace-an-archbishop-like-no-other-1-7924958>

## **Mail**

Further coverage of a new business venture, thought to be Britain's first suppliers of "clergy couture". Their new online boutique "Collared", which specialises in day-to-day clothes for female clergy, made its debut last week at the Christian Resources Exhibition in London. The Revd Sandra Sykes, a curate in the villages of Great and Little Leighs in Essex, her friend Mandy Strevens, and their daughters Sarah and Melissa are behind the project.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3603381/Here-s-hot-dog-collar-Woman-priest-launches-range-tailored-clothes-female-clergy-fed-looking-like-men-drag.html>

## **Economist**

Reports that the next generation of boy bands will emerge from (church) choirs. Simon Kirk, director of music at St John's College School, which educates the boy choristers of St John's College Chapel in Cambridge, is quoted.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/prospero/2016/05/choirs-and-boy-bands?fsrc=rss>

## **Comment**

Schools Week: Paul Barber, the Director of the Catholic Education Service writes, "Calm down - the Church isn't after a 'land grab'".

<http://schoolsweek.co.uk/church-academies-mou-isnt-a-land-grab/>

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