



***Pope Francis greets participants at the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.***

## **Vatican confirms World Meeting of Families in Dublin**

The 2018 World Meeting of Families in Ireland is part of a broad programme of renewal of the Church's pastoral care for all families, said Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin.

“In Pope Francis’s mind, the IX World Meeting of Families in Dublin is not an isolated event. It belongs within a process of discernment and encouragement, of accompaniment and animation of families,” he said during a news conference at the Vatican yesterday, Tuesday.

“It belongs within a program of renewal of the Church’s pastoral concern and pastoral care for the family and for families,” he said.

Archbishop Martin and Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, presented the official theme of the encounter, which is held every three years. The gathering is dedicated to “The Gospel of family, joy for the world,” and it will run from August 22-26, 2018, in Dublin.

At the news conference, Archbishop Martin again confirmed that Pope Francis would like to attend the meeting in Ireland in 2018, but he said a concrete schedule would be set closer to the actual date of the event.

The meeting’s preparation and celebration will be inspired in large part, Archbishop Paglia said, by Pope Francis’s apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love), which followed a two-year-long synod process focused on families.

The post-synodal document, he said, demands “not a simple updating of family pastoral care, but much more — a new way of living the church, a new way of fulfilling that love that renders the life of the people of God, of families and of society happy.”

Archbishop Martin said he hoped the meeting would be “an important milestone in the application of the fruits of the synodal process.”

Archbishop Paglia said having the meeting in Ireland, which is “marked by a delicate moment of transition,” will help the country “recover the strength, energy and missionary zeal through the rediscovery of the vocation and mission of the family.”

All Christian communities and members of other religious faiths need to work together with government and civil society to find common ground in a “family spirit,” he said, in order to tackle “that individualist dimension that unfortunately is increasingly embroiling religious and civil settings all over the world.”

The meeting is meant to highlight the Christian ideal of marriage and family life, as well as to be a resource to accompany and encourage all those who “who can’t achieve the Christian

ideal” as of yet, Archbishop Paglia said in response to a reporter’s question.

It will be about “inclusivity,” he said, in tune with the Pope’s approach in his ministry and the postsynodal document.

Archbishop Martin said in his talk that “the Church’s catechetical programs regarding marriage and the family need a complete overhaul in line with what *Amoris Laetitia* sets out,” and he hoped churches around the world would prepare for the Dublin meeting by sharing in that catechetical process.

The priority in planning is to look at what families are facing and, in Ireland, that includes great economic difficulties and a severe housing crisis. Some families in Dublin, he said, live in a hotel room “because there aren’t enough homes.”

The gathering is an opportunity to “encourage a very inclusive culture” for people who are struggling and want a more dignified life for themselves and their families, he said.

“In the face of the many challenges of a changing culture of marriage and the family, the Church is called to accompany families in a new way and to enable families to experience more

profoundly the joy of living the Gospel of the family,” he said.

The major three-day conference will hear from a range of international speakers on challenges facing families. In addition to key-note speeches there will be group discussions “on a wide range of theological, spiritual, social and scientific questions on the place of the family in today’s world,” a statement from the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference said.

## **C of I Archbishop of Dublin welcomes World Meeting of Families**

Archbishop Michael Jackson has welcomed the announcement by the Vatican this morning that the Roman Catholic Church’s next World Meeting of Families will be held in Dublin in 2018. It will be the ninth such meeting to have taken place – the last one was in Philadelphia in 2015.

“I should like to wish everything that is best to our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Roman Catholic tradition, both in Dublin and more widely across Ireland, as they begin preparations in earnest for The World Meeting of Families in

2018,” Archbishop Michael Jackson said in response to the announcement.

“This is an event of international proportions and of considerable significance right across society in general. Wherever people congregate and share lives, issues associated with family life, care and nurture are always to the fore. I congratulate Archbishop Diarmuid Martin with whom I have had the pleasure of working for almost six years in these dioceses and also Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia [head of the Pontifical Council for the Family] who is a friend for more than a decade through the Community of St Egidio in Rome.

“The World Meeting of Families intends to open wide its doors in generosity of invitation to all interested parties. We in the Church of Ireland tradition recollect with great joy the ways in which we were included in The International Eucharistic Congress and pledge our willingness to assist in any ways that our brothers and sisters in Christ think may be helpful.”

## **PCI couple move from Omagh to Jordan**

May 24

Colin and Marjorie Dickson left Ireland this week for Amman, Jordan. The Presbyterian cleric and his wife will both be taking up roles at the Seminary there. Colin will be Academic Coordinator and Lecturer in Practical Theology, while Marjorie has been appointed as an Assistant in the Seminary's library.



Colin, who was ordained as a minister in December 2006, served along with Marjorie in the congregations of Cavanaleck and

Aughentine in the Presbytery of Omagh for seven years, until December 2013.

“While we experienced a fruitful ministry in Cavanaleck and Aughentaine, the call to take the Gospel to the nations never left us. Through 2013, we sensed a call to missionary service overseas,” explained Colin.

“In response to this, I resigned from my charge in December 2013 to undertake a two-year period of further studies in preparation for future overseas service. During this period the Spanish Evangelical Church, through PCI, invited us to convene the vacancy in Torre del Mar Evangelical Church in Malaga, from January to July 2014 as it transitioned to new leadership.

“When we heard about the possible opportunity to serve the Lord in Jordan, we were very excited at the prospect of going to the Middle East. We made a short visit to the Theological Seminary in early January and were received very warmly and made very welcome by all the staff we met.

“We are excited about taking up our new roles and hope to build good relationships amongst the faculty, staff and students at the Seminary. We are also looking forward to adapting to middle-eastern culture, different food and a new neighbourhood, and trust we will cope well with



the higher temperatures and learning a new language!”

Colin and Marjorie are being supported by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and were commissioned for service overseas in their home congregation – Shore Street Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee, earlier this month. They will take up their respective roles in August, after a period of language study and orientation classes.

## **Desmond Tutu's daughter gives up Church ministry after same-sex marriage**

Archbishop Desmond Tutu's daughter has given up her licence to serve as an Anglican priest after marrying a woman.

Rev Canon Mpho Tutu-Van Furth faced disciplinary measures from her bishop, who is personally sympathetic but constrained by Church law.

Tutu-Van Furth said: "Because the South African Anglican Church does not recognise our marriage, I can no longer exercise my priestly

ministry in South Africa. The bishop of the diocese was instructed to revoke my licence. I decided that I would give it to him rather than have him take it."

Bishop Raphael Hess told the **Telegraph** he was "vexed" by the situation but hoped it would be short-lived. "The time has come for us to exercise pastoral care, for us to demonstrate a shift that is reflected in the law," he said. "We would be able to have Rev Canon Tutu be able to minister. At the moment she cannot and she has accepted that but we are hoping that there might be a window for us to change it."

South Africa legalised same-sex marriage in 2006, but the Church has yet to follow suit. However, unlike Anglican Churches in other African countries it generally takes a liberal position on the question that has threatened to split the Communion.

Canon Tutu married atheist academic Marceline Van Furth in the Netherlands in December. Both are divorced.

Archbishop Tutu attended a second ceremony at a vineyard owned by Sir Richard Branson in South Africa at which he was permitted to give a "father's blessing" to their union. The former

Archbishop of Cape Town has spoken in favour of same-sex marriage, saying he would refuse to go to a "homophobic heaven".

## **New St Patrick's Parish Hall, Drumbeg officially opened**

The new St Patrick's Parish Hall, Drumbeg was officially opened on Sunday 22 May following a Service of Thanksgiving in the adjoining Parish Church.

The service was led by the rector, the Revd Willie Nixon and Bishop Harold Miller preached. The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, dedicated the new hall and also shared his faith story during the service.

Other special guests included Cllr Alexander Redpath (Deputy Mayor of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council) and recently elected MLAs, Jenny Palmer and Robbie Butler.

Following the service, clergy and congregation walked in procession to the front door of the new hall for a short service of dedication after which Matthew Neill and Anthony Hegarty pulled the ribbon and declared the building open.



Matthew is a local historian in his 98th year and a former Sexton of St Patrick's, as was his father before him and his grandfather before that. Anthony represented the local community.

Lunch was served in the large main hall, catered by ladies from the parish and a team from Hydebank College. Representatives of local churches brought greetings and some presentations were made on behalf of St Patrick's.

The service and official opening came as part of a weekend of celebrations including a Ceilidh, a breakfast with guest speaker, Archdeacon David

McClay and Songs of Praise in the new hall on Sunday evening.

The Parish Hall project began in June 2013 and the builders, Mark Crowe and Sons, Drumbeg, arrived on site 2 years later and completed the build on time. The project architect was Clyde Markwell of Knox and Markwell, Bangor.

The accommodation comprises a large main hall with kitchen, an office, foyer/café area, meeting room and toilets. There is extensive parking with steps and landscaping leading up to the graveyard and church above.

The new build was funded through the sale of the old hall, investment income and the fundraising efforts and generous direct giving of parishioners and the local community. The contract price was £614,000.

## **Orange Order fills Armagh Cathedral for Somme service**

Lodge members from Portradown and Lurgan were among 1,200 Orangemen and women from the 11 Co Armagh districts attended a special service in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh on

Sunday afternoon commemorating the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

The lodge members, who included members of the junior order, paraded from Armagh Orange Hall through the city centre to the cathedral headed by two bands - Hamiltownbawn Silver and Tullyvallen Silver.

The service was conducted by the Dean of Armagh the Rev Gregory Dunstan and the special preacher was the Rev Dr Alan McCann, Lurgan District Chaplain and County Grand Chaplain of County Armagh Grand Orange Lodge.

Close on 5,000 Ulster soldiers, a significant number from Co Armagh, died in the battle, most belonging the gallant 36th Ulster Division and many of them Orangemen, and a wreath was laid at the front of the cathedral by Denis Watson, the County Armagh Grand Master, with a two minute's silence observed.

In his address, Dr McCann spoke of the courage and steadfastness to duty shown by the Ulster soldiers at the Battle of the Somme and he recalled that many homes across the province were deeply affected by the enormous loss of life.

The cathedral was packed to overflowing with many of the brethren having to stand throughout the service.

During the service, which took the form of Choral Evensong, an act of remembrance for those who died at the Somme battle on July 1, 1916 was observed with Bryan Walker, Worshipful Master of Portadown Ex-Servicemen's LOL No 608 giving the citation.

Lessons were read by Denis Watson and the Rev William Anderson, from Loughgall District, a County Grand Chaplain.

A collection was taken for the Royal British Legion.

Districts represented were Portadown, Richhill, Loughgall, Tandragee, Armagh, Lurgan, Killylea, Keady, Newtownhamilton, Markethill and Bessbrook.

Armagh County Grand Secretary Roger Gardiner has expressed thanks and appreciation to the Orange brethren, sisters and juniors from throughout the county for the tremendous attendance at the Somme centenary service in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh on Sunday.

"The service was solemn, dignified and most uplifting and the turnout exceeded all our expectations; estimates in the region of 1,200 on parade have been provided. The service was due to commence at 3.15pm, but could not do so until all were in the cathedral at 3.40pm," said Mr Gardiner.

He also expressed thanks to the Rev Dr Alan McCann, County Grand Chaplain, for his inspiring address, and Dean Gregory Dunstan, of St Patrick's Cathedral, for his help and co-operation with the arrangements and the warm welcome received at the cathedral.

Dean Dunstan told Mr Gardiner he was amazed at the numbers in attendance.

## **Pilgrimage of His Grace: Archbishop of York walks 1500 miles**

The Archbishop of York has in the last six months walked more than 1.6 million steps, adding up to 1,500 miles and climbing more than 1,200 floors.



He released the data to mark the end of his **Pilgrimage of Prayer, Witness and Blessing**, with the final service in York Minster.

According to data he recorded on his mobile phone as he went, his 1,627,226 steps amounted to a walk of 1,578 miles.

"The longest walk on the Pilgrimage was a 16-mile trek along the route from Wilton to Redcar, and out onto The Gare – the most northerly point of the Diocese of York," said Archbishop Sentamu. "In total I have walked 1,578 miles wearing my reliable Chris Brasher boots and with my walking poles. I have taken 1,627,226 steps. I have climbed 1,204 floors. I have walked in all weathers, rain, wind, hail, sleet, snow and glorious sunshine."

The pilgrimage began at the start of December in St Mary's, Whitby.

The Archbishop said: "I've prayed with 25,100 people using prayer beads, and saying the Lord's Prayer as well as singing a Taizé chant in over 480 churches. I also

said prayers in most schools and hospitals. I have visited 148 schools, including nursery pre-schools, primary, secondary and sixth form colleges, where the standard of teaching and the level of learning taking place is excellent. I have visited 22 hospitals and hospices along the route.

Throughout the Pilgrimage we have distributed many booklets exploring how one encounters Jesus Christ and be filled with the Holy Spirit, 60,000 book marks and prayer cards.

"I am energised and have been so encouraged by the people that I have met in factories, on farms and on the streets."

He walked part of it with a "pilgrimage companion", the Canon Joanna Udal, who accompanied him from Advent to Easter Day and has now joined the community of The Little Sisters of Jesus.

"There have been so many amazing God moments, for example, 13 Baptisms,

Confirmations, prayers for healing and many many blessings," said Archbishop Sentamu. The vision for this pilgrimage came from the roots of Britain's Christian heritage. Archbishop Sentamu said he was inspired by the great Northern Saints, such as Aidan, Cuthbert, and Hilda, all of whom took to the road to proclaim the Good News.

The Telegraph, which joined him towards the end of the pilgrimage, **reported** that he embarked on the pilgrimage after he heard a voice telling him to go "on the road" during one of his his annual nine-day retreats of silent reflection on Holy Island off the Northumberland Coast. His plans were delayed by recovery from prostate cancer in 2013 and the Queen gave him her blessing to be absent from normal duties.

The Telegraph reported that he spoke of his time living under Idi Amin's in Uganda, which he fled in 1974. Speaking at St Oswald's Church in Fulford and Heslington Church, he described how eight friends from Makerere University in Kampala had been butchered in front of him and a vice chancellor he knew from university also disappeared.

"Why I am still alive is a mystery to me," he said. "I was very resentful. It was very hard and I was

having nightmares." Eventually, he was given "the strength to forgive Amin and the general who did these things".

He described how he met one mother in the middle of a road which was flooded and she asked him to baptise her child. He baptised another child in a well. As he went he was quizzed about issues such as poverty, same-sex marriage and Islamic State.

## News briefs

Senior pupils from St Laurence's School, Chapelizod took part in the Scripture Union Pentecost Schools Project and won. Scripture Union offered them the opportunity to explore the story of Pentecost and, working with a professional children's author and illustrator, to produce their own comic.

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Mothers' Union open days at Mary Sumner House, London, in August (3rd & 4th) still have some spaces available! "Why not come and visit us and see some of the wonderful work we have done in the last 140 years..."

<http://www.mothersunion.org/.../conferenc.../celebrate-open-days>

Ian McKinley, has been signed by Treviso Rugby for the 2016/17 Pro12 Season. This is a huge achievement for him, following three years in full retirement. It has also been made possible thanks to the huge public support last October to lobby for a change in policy towards the use of protective eyewear in International Rugby. Ian is a son of Canon Horace McKinley, Tallaght.

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The death has taken place Charles Wynne husband of Rev. Jean Wynne of Meath & Kildare.

## Cathedral, choral and musical

**The ‘Concert for Peace’ held at Knock Basilica** to commemorate the 1916 Rising and the First World War was “fantastic”, according to shrine rector Fr Richard Gibbons.

Describing the evening as “a wonderful night”, Fr Gibbons said the concert, performed by the RTÉ Concert Orchestra and conducted by David Brophy, was the first time they had hosted something of that scale in the basilica, and added, “we were extremely happy with it”.

The concert was divided into two parts, the first being Patrick Cassidy's 'Elegy Suite for 1916', drawing together older pieces by him such as his 'Vide Cor Meum' from the film Hannibal and 'A Supplication' from Famine Remembrance with his more recent 'Mise Éire', 'Irish Volunteers' and 'The Proclamation' from the major documentary *1916: The Irish Rebellion*.

Alluding to how Patrick Cassidy had been born at Claremorris, just a few miles from the shrine where his father had been a volunteer, Fr Gibbons said "the Cassidys have a very strong local connection, so it was wonderful to have their music performed here", adding "the talent that's even in that family unit was extraordinary, so it was kind of a 'coming home' for that".

The second part of the concert consisted of extracts from *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* by Sir Karl Jenkins, originally dedicated to the victims of the Kosovo conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and in Knock "commemorating all those who died in the First World War", according to Fr Gibbons.

**[News links to reports on faith, politics and education](#)**

## **Ban under age 18 weddings in NI**

News Letter

Marriages involving children under the age of 18 should be outlawed in Northern Ireland, a human rights watchdog has said.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/call-for-ban-on-weddings-in-northern-ireland-involving-under-18s-1-7397420>

## **Bomb threats made to seven primary schools in Northern Ireland**

BBC News

Police are investigating bomb threats made to seven primary schools across Northern Ireland.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36366332>

## **Discrimination and sectarianism widespread in Northern Ireland's schools**

News Letter

Discrimination and sectarianism are widespread in Northern Ireland's schools, the largest teachers' union has said.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/sectarianism-a-problem-in-northern-ireland-schools-say-teachers-1-7397422>

## **Three women hand themselves in to police for breaking abortion law**

BBC News

Three women have presented themselves to police in Londonderry claiming to having broken Northern Ireland's abortion laws.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36363730>

## **More people pro same-sex marriage in N Ireland**

News Letter

The proportion of people backing marriage equality in Northern Ireland dwarfs the level of support in the Republic, a campaigner suggested.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/pro-same-sex-marriage-support-in-ni-greater-than-in-republic-1-7395107>

## **O'Neill reckons Northern Ireland's success has helped bridge Catholic v Protestant divide**

[Express.co.uk](http://www.express.co.uk)

MICHAEL O'NEILL believes his Northern **Ireland** team's success has helped heal the **religious** divisions that have torn apart the country's sport and ...

<http://www.express.co.uk/sport/football/673050/O-Neill-reckons-Northern-Ireland-s-success-helped-bridge-Catholic-v-Protestant-divide-News>

## **Polish Catholics bring new life to Limerick parish**

Irish Times

Even though Polish Masses are filling out **Irish churches**, Fr Stanislaw Hajkowski, rector of the Dublin chaplaincy to the Polish community in Ireland, ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/polish-catholics-bring-new-life-to-limerick-parish-1.2648913>

## **St Anthony's relics to go on tour across Ireland**

Irish Times



Thousands of people are expected to visit the relics of St Anthony when they are brought to Catholic **churches** across Ireland and Knock shrine next ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/st-anthony-s-relics-to-go-on-tour-across-ireland-1.2649670>

**Christian Today/York Press** - Further coverage of the successful end of the Archbishop of York's Pilgrimage of Prayer, Witness and Blessing on Sunday. The York Press features the statistics issued by Bishopthorpe about the Archbishop's journey (see above).

**Guard/Tel/Mail** - Reports on the results of a new survey which shows the number of people who say they have no religion in England and Wales is escalating and outweighs the Christian population. The proportion of the population who identify as having no religion reached 48.5% in 2014, almost double the figure of 25% in the 2011 census. Those who define themselves as Christian - Anglicans, Catholics and other denominations - made up 43.8% of the population. A spokesperson for the C of E said: "The increase in those identifying as 'no faith' reflects a growing plurality in society rather than any increase in secularism or humanism. We do not have an increasingly secular society as much as a more agnostic one."

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/23/no-religion-outnumber-christians-england-wales-study>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/23/exodus-churches-lose-11-worshippers-for-every-new-member/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3605832/Now-UK-Christians-minority-Number-people-say-not-identify-religion-reaches-half-doubling-past-three-years.html>

**BBC/Premier/Times** - A bone fragment believed to come from Thomas Becket is going on display in England for the first time since it was taken to Hungary 800 years ago. The bone is believed to be from the elbow of St Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170. The fragment is the centrepiece of a week-long pilgrimage in London and Kent. The Times quotes the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres. Special services will be jointly conducted throughout the relic's visit by Anglican and Roman Catholic clerics.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-36356997>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/Relic-of-former-archbishop-to-tour-England>

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

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/churches-give-becket-some-elbow-room-dv8hl0gcz>

**Mail** - Agency report previewing votes tomorrow on climate change at the ExxonMobil and Chevron annual shareholder meetings. A shareholder resolution on climate risk disclosure has been co-filed at ExxonMobil by the Church Commissioners and New York State Common Retirement Fund. It asks Exxon to disclose how resilient its portfolio and strategy would be if policy measures to restrict global warming to 2 degrees, as agreed at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in December 2015, were successful. Edward Mason, head of responsible investments at the Church Commissioners is quoted as saying that addressing climate change is "a real issue of financial risk".

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3605980/Shareholders-vote-climate-test-ExxonMobil-Chevron.html>

**BBC** - Reports that part of a Portsmouth Cathedral tower was "close to collapse" because of rotting wood, conservation experts have said. Restoration workers said timbers had "literally turned to powder" and the 17th Century tower was on the verge of collapsing internally. Repairs, backed by government grants totalling £681,000, have nearly been [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

completed after five months of work. Cathedral spokesman John Bolt said, "Another severe storm on the scale of 2013 would likely have collapsed the tower and destroyed the organ."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-36357206>

**Ind/Times** - Profile of Richard Dawkins who is reported as saying said he is in favour of offending people's religion and it should be offended "at every opportunity".

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/richard-dawkins-atheist-academic-calls-for-religion-to-be-offended-at-every-opportunity-a7043226.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/you-and-i-are-too-stupid-to-decide-on-eu-fhd90jvxt>

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