



***Cork MU President, Patsy Devo, presents 200 comfort teddies to crew members of the Irish naval vessel, Le Roisin for use on its migrants mission. Lt(NS) Gavin McCarthy (Executive Officer), Leading Communication Operator Gillian Hamilton, Robert Devo, Patsy Devo (MU Diocesan President) and their granddaughter, and Petty Officer Suzan Brogan.***

## **Irish naval ship sails on migrants mission with 200 Teddy bears from Cork Mothers' Union**

The Irish Naval ship, LÉ Róisín, has left the Irish Naval Base at Haulbowline in Cork Harbour and is heading to the Mediterranean on a three-month humanitarian mission to aid migrants fleeing Syria, as well as other Middle Eastern and African countries. This is the fourth such mission of the Irish Naval Service in the past year.

LÉ Róisín departed at midday on Sunday, 1st May bound for the Mediterranean to assist in rescuing and alleviating the plight of refugees. On the ship are 200 “Comfort Teddies”, knitted by members and friends of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Mothers’ Union which will be given to refugee children. Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union, Patsy Devoy, was on board with her husband Robert and with her granddaughter to hand over the teddies.

## **Catholic church in Ireland to mark World Day of Social Communications**

The 50th World Day of Social Communications Day will be formally celebrated on 8 May 2016 – the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord – which falls on the Sunday before Pentecost

Sunday. Pope Francis has chosen *Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter* as the theme for 2016.



Welcoming this year's message, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and chair of the Council of Communications of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, said: "When Pope Francis announced that 2016 would be a Holy Year he said that the mercy of God would be at its centre. The Pope said, 'It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word

of the Lord: 'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful' (cf. Lk 6:36).'

“As this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy continues to unfold through initiatives in Rome and at home, I warmly welcome this year’s World Communications Day message Communication and Mercy. Such guidance is timely for our society here in Ireland, as well as for families, communities and States around the world. It complements this special year for the Universal Church which, Pope Francis tells us in his message, ‘is called to practise mercy as the distinctive trait of all that she is and does ... Our primary task is to uphold the truth with love.’ We are also reminded that to communicate in an authentic manner we must be able to ‘listen’ to, rather than merely ‘hear’, when we encounter another.”

Archbishop Eamon said, “In part this year’s message follows—on from *Communicating the Family: A Privileged Place of Encounter with the Gift of Love* of 2015, as it asks us to show mercy and tolerance within our families and ‘to build bridges, to enable encounter and inclusion’ with words of love. But the reach of Communication and Mercy goes much wider as it urges

politicians and diplomats to use language ‘inspired by mercy, which never loses hope’. I encourage everyone to read this short, thought provoking and inspiring message.”

Some of the key points from this year’s World Communications Day message are:

- If our hearts and actions are inspired by charity, by divine love, then our communication will be touched by God’s own power.
- As sons and daughters of God, we are called to communicate with everyone, without exception.
- Christians ought to be a constant encouragement to communion and, even in those cases where they must firmly condemn evil, they should never try to rupture relationships and communication.
- Our political and diplomatic language would do well to be inspired by mercy, which never loses hope.
- Mercy can help mitigate life’s troubles and offer warmth to those who have known only the coldness of judgement. May our way of communicating help to overcome the mind-set that neatly separates sinners from the righteous. We can and we must judge situations of sin – such as violence, corruption and exploitation –

but we may not judge individuals, since only God can see into the depths of their hearts.

- Our primary task is to uphold the truth with love
- Listening is never easy. Many times it is easier to play deaf. Listening means paying attention, wanting to understand, to value, to respect and to ponder what the other person says.
- It is not technology which determines whether or not communication is authentic, but rather the human heart and our capacity to use wisely the means at our disposal. Social networks can facilitate relationships and promote the good of society, but they can also lead to further polarisation and division between individuals and groups.
- I pray that this Jubilee Year, lived in mercy, may open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; and that it may eliminate every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination.
- In a broken, fragmented and polarised world, to communicate with mercy means to help create a healthy, free and fraternal closeness between the children of God and all our brothers and sisters in the one human family.

Please click [here](#) for the full text of this year's World Communications Day message.

The World Day of Social Communications, which the Church celebrates on 8 May 2016, is the only World Day established by the Second Vatican Council. In 1963 the Council issued the Decree on the tools of social communication, *Inter mirifica*, which included the proposal that the Church should celebrate a day dedicated to social communications.

## **Holocaust Day remembered in Belfast**

Some 150 people have paraded through the streets of Belfast to mark Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day as part of a reconciliation event run with former Nazis.

News Letter - The March Of Life is an initiative organised by German Christians who, together with descendants of German Wehrmacht soldiers and members of the Nazi SS, have organised memorial and reconciliation marches at Holocaust sites all over Europe since 2007.

Belfast's own March Of Life parade started just after 3pm on Sunday at the Jaffe Fountain at



***The March of Life parade makes its way through Belfast city centre***

Victoria Square and took in Cornmarket, Donegall Place and Donegall Square North.

The peaceful procession carried a large banner which said 'March Of Life - Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day'.

“The parade was made up of members of the Christian and Jewish community from Northern Ireland,” said Michael McNally from Bangor, who was a key organiser of the local expression of the event.



There were no protests and minimal police presence.

“During the walk, the flags of all European nations were carried, representing the international aspect of this event,” he said.

“Flags are an inherent part of Northern Ireland society but never before have so many flags of so many different nations been carried in a single demonstration of solidarity.”

Mr McNally said he was apolitical and did not want to comment on recent tensions on anti-Semitism within the Labour Party.

Asked if he thought opposition to Israel was anti-Semitic, he replied: “They are very close. Every country and government makes mistakes but Israelis are more critical of their policies than any other nation.

“They are also a democracy and that says something as they are surrounded by non-democratic states.”

Steven Jaffe, co-chair of Northern Ireland Friends of Israel, said he was proud to support the march.

He said: “At a time when anti-Semitism and extremism is on the rise in so many parts of the world, and hatred towards Israel becomes ever more aggressive, it has never been more important for people of goodwill to publicly proclaim their opposition to Jew hatred in all of its forms, to remember the tragic history of the Holocaust, and to work tirelessly for peace and reconciliation between different communities.”

North Down DUP councillor Peter Martin also supported the march.

“It is a timely event, especially when anti-Semitism is on the rise, primarily now from those on the far left, that we do not just watch this happen but make a clear and visual stand against it,” he said.

## **Presbyterian Church's Global Mission Convener visits partners in Indonesia**

The Rev Liz Hughes is currently in Indonesia visiting partner churches of the Irish Presbyterian Church. In Indonesia, PCI partners with three churches: the [Christian Church of Sumba](#); the [Evangelical Christian Church in](#)

[Timor](#); and the [Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera](#).



***Rev. Liz Hughes Convener of the Council for Global Mission with Rev. Marlin Lomi, General Secretary of the Christian Church of Sumba (GKS) with the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and Clerk of the General Assembly, Rev. Trevor Gribben when a delegation of GKS leaders visited Ireland last April.***

Accompanied by Rev. John Hanna of Glendermott Presbyterian Church, who served in Indonesia in the 1980s and 1990s, Mrs. Hughes said before leaving, “Last April, we were delighted to [welcome three leaders from the Christian Church of Sumba](#) to Ireland. We were

very challenged by our discussions with them, especially by learning about amazing growth the church has enjoyed since the 1980s.

“John and myself are excited about going to Sumba, to meet the church leaders again, and see at first-hand how their church has grown and how they are ministering and discipling the increasing numbers of young Christians in their congregations.

“We are also very much looking forward to our visit to the Evangelical Christian Church in Timor, which is the second largest Protestant church in Indonesia with over 1.5 million members in Timor and 13 neighbouring islands.

“I expect our visit to both churches will be a time of mutual encouragement and learning, and that the visit will strengthen our partnerships with the two churches,” she said.

Indonesia is a chain of over 17,000 islands in Southeast Asia, two thirds of which are inhabited. It is the world’s fourth most populous country, after the United States, and has the world’s highest Muslim population.

## **Tuam diocesan project to provide 'Maji kwa Maasai', 'water for Maasai'**

After a hugely successful diocesan project in Tuam, Killala and Achonry (TKA) diocese which provided the Oloosuyian Girls' Secondary School with a new build sanitary block, in the summer of 2015 Bishop Patrick Rooke visited the project for TKA and Bishops' Appeal, of which he is chair. He was joined on this trip by Revds Stephen and Jen McWhirter and their daughter Kizzy, who have links with the diocese of Kajiado.

While in the Maasai Rural Training Centre (MRTC) at Oltiasika, Bishop Patrick Rooke spent time with Bishop Gaddiel Lenini (Bishop of Kajiado diocese) and Ronnie and Maggie Briggs (Mission Partners with CMS Ireland). While there the Irish group had a tour of the MRTC and saw the water collection and storage facilities which were barely functioning due to chronic disrepair. The water collection system, which is currently made up of sheets of corrugated iron, has rusted and is no longer fit for purpose. The three tanks were full of dead animals which have fallen in, mostly lizards and frogs.

At present many of the people in the outlying villages have to travel 17km to the nearest borehole to draw water.

The new project involves raising the money to completely refurbish and repair the water collection and storage system at Oltiasika. The old rusted corrugated iron collection system will be replaced with a concrete 'slipway' funneling system down which rainwater will run off the side of the mountain into the collection tanks. There are three collection tanks, each the size of large swimming pools, which fill one from the other as it rains, i.e. once the first tank is full it overflows into the second tank which when full overflows into the third. These will be cleaned out and repaired and covers will be built for these tanks.

The project will be called 'Maji', which is the Swahili word for water. The strapline 'Maji kwa Maasai' means 'water for Maasai' as TKA strive to bring clean water to the 3000 people who live in the area surrounding Oltiasika.

A new Mission Group, with the specific brief to consider world mission, has been set up by Diocesan Council and will oversee the fund-raising for this project. The members of the group are Revd Stephen McWhirter (Chair), Mrs Sue

Minnish, Mrs Myrtle Nairn and Mr David (Teddy) Sherwood.

## **Sister Crockett a striking example of Derry womanhood**

The 33-year-old nun was killed last month when an earthquake struck the north west of Ecuador.

Hundreds of people packed into St Columba's Church close to her family home in the Brandywell area of Londonderry for Requiem Mass.

Fr Eamon Graham, who led the service, said: "She was a striking example of Derry womanhood.

"Clare asked herself what she could do to make the world a better place and how she could serve God and help the most vulnerable.

"And to do that she went to the far end of the earth and she took her goodness with her."

Sister Crockett had been working with the 'Home of the Mother' organisation teaching children and

died when a stairwell collapsed in the Playa Prieta school she was based in.

It is understood she was trying to save the lives of five children she was with at the time.

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake killed nearly 500 people and injured more than 4,000.

Fr Graham told the congregation that many who met the self-confessed former party girl and budding actress had been inspired to change direction.

He added: "She continued to do this in her death.

"She enjoyed life and she loved life.

"She always said she wanted to be famous - but she gave all that up. But in a way she has achieved fame and that will help her good work continue."

As her coffin, adorned with floral bouquets, was carried into the church, a guard of honour was provided by girls from St Cecilia's College where Sister Clare had received their first-ever award for kindness.



A large number of Catholic clergy including Bishops Edward Daly and Donal McKeown as well as the high profile Presbyterian minister and former Army chaplain Reverend David Latimer were among those who took part in the ceremony.

Some members of Sister Clare's order were also in attendance as were Stormont politicians including Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness and SDLP leader Colm Eastwood, both Derry natives.

## Cathedral and choral



***The African Children's Choir begins its UK tour in Lurgan this Friday***

**Lurgan church hosts African Children's Choir**

- Ten girls and eight boys from Uganda aged from nine to 11 years old will perform all over the UK for the next three month They commence the tour at Shankill Parish Church in Lurgan this Friday, May 6 at 7.30pm.

Rector Geoff Wilson said he is very much looking forward to hearing the children perform. He said: "We are all looking forward to the choir performing in the church. All these children have been helped by the charity and are now helping others.

"We are issuing free tickets for the performance and will be donating all the funds from the free will offering to Music for Life. It will be a good event."

The 100 strong **Belfast Community Gospel Choir** has taken not just Belfast, but the whole of Northern **Ireland** by storm. It was featured in the Irish News. Article by Marie Lacey at - <http://www.irishnews.com/paywall/tsa/irishnews/irishnews/irishnews//lifestyle/2016/05/02/news/feel-the-joy-says-belfast-community-gospel-choir-leader-marie-lacey-494903/content.html>

An increasing number of visiting choirs, many of them from America, has been requesting to perform in **St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry**, which, incidentally, is often their only Northern Ireland venue.

The Director of one such choir which sang there recently got in touch on returning home to the States and sent this deeply appreciative message - “

“Dear **Dean Morton**,

“I wanted to get a note of thanks off to you and the lovely people at St. Columb's Cathedral for hosting us during our 10 day tour of Ireland and Wales. 39 of us were treated to the warmest hospitality from your parishioners and staff whilst we were there on April 18.

“We loved singing in your beautiful space surrounded but such history and heritage.

“It was a lovely, lovely experience and I thank you on behalf of myself and the choir members.

“I fear that I may get some names wrong, but Muriel, one of your wardens, was most gracious and welcoming to us. Raymond, the verger, worked tirelessly on our behalf, and Nicky could not have been more helpful and accommodating to both myself and our accompanist.

“You are so fortunate to have such wonderful people at the cathedral.

“We arrived back in the States yesterday feeling so fulfilled by our time in the UK, and being at St. Columb's was certainly a highlight. Please express my deepest gratitude to all involved.

“Most sincerely, Peter Boak, Director of Music,  
The Federated Church, Martha's Vineyard, MA”

## News briefs

**The Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton**, has been appointed as an Associate Editor on the editorial board of a new journal which is to be published by Brill of Leiden in the Netherlands called ‘Law and Religion’. It will form part of their ‘Brill Research Perspectives Series.’ The new journal is to be published in close association with the Centre for Law and Religion at the School of Law and Politics at Cardiff University where Dr Colton is an Honorary Research Fellow.

Professor Norman Doe, Director of the Centre for Law and Religion will be the Editor-in-Chief.

The Associate Editors on the editorial board are: Professor Alessandro Ferrari (Department of Law, University of Insubria, Italy), Professor Miguel Rodríguez Blanco (School of Law, University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain), Professor Leon Van den Broeke (Centre for Law and Religion, VU University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands), and Dr Russell Sandberg, Dr Paul

Colton, Professor Mark Hill and Frank Cranmer (all of Centre for Law and Religion, School of Law and Politics, Cardiff University, U.K.).

Brill, founded in 1683, publishes principally in the fields of International Law and the Humanities. It is based in Leiden in The Netherlands with an office also in Boston, Massachusetts. The Brill website is [here](#).

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

### **C of I report challenges Royal Black Institution**

News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/coi-report-challenges-royal-black-institution-1-7360312>

### **James Nesbitt explains why The Secret's true story of murder is close to home**

Radio Times

Some of his friends were patients of dentist

Colin Howells

[http://www.radiotimes.com/news/2016-04-29/james-nesbitt-explains-why-the-secrets-true-story-of-murder-is-close-to-home?](http://www.radiotimes.com/news/2016-04-29/james-nesbitt-explains-why-the-secrets-true-story-of-murder-is-close-to-home?utm_source=AppleNews&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=James%20Nesbitt%20explains%20why%20The%20Secret%27s%20true)

[utm\\_source=AppleNews&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=James%20Nesbitt%20explains%20why%20The%20Secret%27s%20true](http://www.radiotimes.com/news/2016-04-29/james-nesbitt-explains-why-the-secrets-true-story-of-murder-is-close-to-home?utm_source=AppleNews&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=James%20Nesbitt%20explains%20why%20The%20Secret%27s%20true)

%20story%20of%20murder%20is%20close  
%20to%20home



***Hazel Buchanan (Genevieve O'Reilly) and Colin Howell (James Nesbitt) are portrayed in The Secret***

## **The Secret a ratings winner but Howell and Stewart victims' families distraught**

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/film-tv/the-secret-a-ratings-winner-but-howell-and-stewart-victims-families-distraught-34676498.html>

## **Victims' relatives angered by Howell and Stewart TV drama The Secret**

Irish News

Relatives voiced their unhappiness at the UTV show on social media

[http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/05/02/news/victims-relatives-angered-by-howell-and-stewart-dramatisation-504814/?mc\\_cid=1040eb9c8b&mc\\_eid=23f2f80c40](http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/05/02/news/victims-relatives-angered-by-howell-and-stewart-dramatisation-504814/?mc_cid=1040eb9c8b&mc_eid=23f2f80c40)

## **NI youth unemployment one in five**

News Letter

According to the most recent figures, one in five young people in Northern Ireland are unemployed. Though those drawing the dole did fall slightly over the past year, Northern Ireland retains the highest levels of unemployment in this age-group compared to other regions in the UK.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/ni-youth-unemployment-figures-are-worst-in-uk-1-7358692>

## **Parents to fight closure of Little Flower school in North Belfast**

Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/paywall/tsa/irishnews/irishnews/irishnews//news/2016/04/30/news/parents-fighting-little-flower-closure-to-stage-protest-502802/content.html>

## **£350k of victims' cash paid out to 'B-Specials' in last decade**

Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/05/02/news/-350k-of-victims-cash-paid-to-b-specials-in-last-decade-504704/>

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