



Launching the pastoral support leaflet at the Ballymena Livestock Market with the Moderator Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie (centre) are Rev. Daniel Kane of West Church, Ballymena (right) and the Moderator of the Presbytery of Ballymena, Rev. Norman Cameron.

Ballymena Presbytery launch farming pastoral leaflet

Launched at the Ballymena Livestock Market, Rev. Daniel Kane of West Church, Ballymena, churchnewsireland@gmail.com

said that the Presbytery wanted to demonstrate its practical and pastoral support for farmers and their families given the deepening crisis many of them face.

“Many farmers and their families are experiencing unprecedented levels of anxiety and stress due to a range of factors. The Presbytery of Ballymena decided it was vital to express our heart-felt support for farmers and their families with this pastoral support leaflet.

“One of the strengths of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland lies in its rural congregations, and by and large in farming families. We wanted to signpost farmers and their families to God and His Word, and the comfort and compassion they can find through believing in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, along with other sources of practical help,” he said.

Presbyterian Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie, was also at the Livestock Market to support the initiative.

“Many of the issues that are covered in the leaflet are common to farming communities beyond the bounds of Ballymena and I hope this initiative

demonstrates both our prayerful and practical support for farmers and their families,” Dr. McNie said.

“During my year as Moderator, I have met many farmers and their families, [both here](#) and in the [Republic of Ireland](#), and I have been humbled and impressed by their fortitude and perseverance in these difficult times.”

Mr. Kane concluded, “The Presbytery of Ballymena wants to reassure all farmers and their families of our ongoing pastoral and prayerful support. Your local minister will always be ready and willing to listen in confidence and offer pastoral friendship and prayer.”

Copies of the leaflet can be downloaded at www.ballymenapresbytery.org or requested from info@ballymenapresbytery.org

Social networks can lead to polarisation and division, Archbishop Eamon Martin

Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, The Primate of All Ireland, has highlighted that 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.

As the chair of the Council of Communications of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh welcomed the Pope's message for the 50th World Day of Social Communications which is celebrated on Sunday 8 May 2016, the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord.

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

One of the key points he makes is that 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.

The message also warns of social networks' potential for good and bad.

“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,” Archbishop Martin said in a message on Tuesday.

He said such guidance was timely for society 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,” the Primate of All Ireland stated.

Isle of Man bishop votes against same-sex marriage law



The Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Rt Revd Robert Paterson

The legislature on the Isle of Man has approved a Bill to enable same-sex couples to marry on the island. The Bishop of Sodor and Man, a member of the island’s parliament, voted against the Bill.

The island’s bicameral parliament, the Tynwald, is the oldest in the world. The lower house, the

House of Keys, has 25 members; while the upper house, the Legislative Council, has 11 members, including whoever is serving as the island's bishop.

The Rt Revd Robert Paterson described the Bill as a “well-intentioned mistake”, [*IOM Today*](#) reports. “The problem we are faced with as legislators is the human body and the nature of sexuality. Wouldn't it be convenient if with Royal Assent we could abolish all difference and distinction in sexuality? But we can't and to pretend otherwise cannot be honest. Talking about equality of status simply confuses things. It's spin.”

Since 2011, same-sex couples on the Isle of Man were able to enter Civil Partnerships – a legal status giving them similar inheritance, tax, and pension rights as married couples. The new Bill extends Civil Partnerships to heterosexual couples. Bishop Paterson described this move as creating “two duplicate sets of relationships” and warned that “it will be train crash waiting to happen.”

The Isle of Man's Legislative Council approved the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Amendment) Bill by six votes to three. It will come into effect after it receives Royal Assent.

Cathedral, music and choral

Tania Murphy, a member of the **Girls' Choir at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast**, has described **singing in St Paul's, London**, with choristers from 60 cathedrals across the UK as 'an experience I will never forget.'

Tania, a Year 12 pupil at Aquinas Grammar School, Belfast, was selected by St Anne's Master of the Choristers David Stevens to represent the Cathedral at the concert in St Paul's Cathedral on April 27.

The concert brought choristers representing 60 cathedrals together with the choir of St Paul's for the first time ever. It was presented by Classic FM's Aled Jones and Alexander Armstrong, and held in the presence of HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, who took the time to chat to all the choristers.

These included Allegri's *Miserere*, Britten's *Friday Afternoons* and *Ceremony of Carols*, Tippett's *Five Spirituals*, the world premiere of a specially commissioned work by Philip Stopford, and Parry's *I Was Glad*.



***St Anne's Chorister
Tania Murphy outside
St Paul's Cathedral***

But Tania's favourite was Handel's *Zadok the Priest*. "It was a very powerful and dramatic opening to the performance," Tania said.

Tania has sung with the St Anne's Choir for the past three years. "I love being a chorister of St Anne's Cathedral as I have always been intrigued in the concept of choral music and the resonating sound of the music in such a big cathedral as St Anne's," she said.

"Being a chorister has given me so many opportunities such as singing in Puccini's opera *Turandot*, singing with the St Anne's choir on a tour of Paris, and of course this wonderful

opportunity of being able to sing in St Paul's Cathedral, London.”

This year is the Friends of Cathedral Music's diamond jubilee, and the St Paul's concert on April 27 launched the new Diamond Fund for Choristers which aims to relieve chorister family hardship, and help choristers develop and flourish.

On four Tuesdays in May at 1pm there will be an **Organ Recital in Monkstown Parish Church**. Admission is free. Donations welcome to defray expenses. All are welcome. Those taking part are as follows: May 10th – Raymond Russell, May 17th – Daniel Braddel, May 24th – Carole O'Connor, May 31st – David O'Shea

Opening of Londonderry's Guildhall Organ - When The Guildhall, Londonderry is officially opened in June there will be a major opportunity too hear the organ.

Sunday 26 June 2016 will be an auspicious day for the City of Londonderry when, in what promises to be a most prestigious occasion, the historic organ in The Guildhall will be officially opened in association with The Honourable The Irish Society.

The guest organist will be **Catherine Ennis**, Director of Music at the Church of Saint Lawrence, Jewry, London, which is now twinned with St Columb's Cathedral.

Designed by Sir William Paratt and installed by William Hill & Son in 1914, the Guildhall Organ has 3132 pipes. Badly damaged in the 1972 bombs and during recent building works, this is a unique opportunity to experience the newly refurbished concert organ

The concert, from 3 o'clock to five, will also feature the Choir, Codetta, senior choristers from Christ's Hospital and St Mary's College, along with spoken word contributions from Sir Roger Gifford, former Lord Mayor of London.

Catherine Ennis is Director of Music at the City of London Church of St. Lawrence Jewry. The music of Catherine's father, legendary Uilleann piper and Irish folklorist Seamus Ennis, was the inspiration for her choice of profession, and she began playing the organ while at Christ's Hospital school. She was Organ Scholar at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, and later Assistant Organist of Christ Church Cathedral. Her subsequent career as recitalist and recording artist has taken her to many international venues; as a teacher, she has been involved with three major London Music conservatoires, and with St. Giles International Organ School.

She has given masterclasses throughout the UK and abroad, and is a frequent examiner and adjudicator for colleges and festivals.

As fundraiser, and organ consultant, she has helped create three other London organs – The Rieger at St. Marylebone shared with the Royal Academy of Music; the Klais at St. Lawrence Jewry; and the William Drake in the new Greenwich home of Trinity College of Music.

In 1994, Catherine established the London Organ Concerts Guide. Under Catherine's direction, part of the flourishing Tuesday lunchtime recital series at St. Lawrence Jewry is devoted to providing a platform for young artists at the organ, whether Sixth -formers, young British graduands, or international post - graduates. She is Director of the John Hill memorial recitals, Chairman of the Sam Baker Trust, Trustee of the Nicholas Danby Trust for young organists and Past President of the Incorporated Association of Organists.

Under the guidance of Dónal Doherty, Codetta is an internationally acclaimed chamber choir based in Londonderry. Its members live and work throughout Ireland and the UK, and return home for intensive weekend rehearsals every month. Codetta has given many notable performances both at home and abroad. Highlights include trips to Switzerland, Italy and Slovenia, appearances

at two Prom concerts in London's Royal Albert Hall in 2013 with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, and two concerts in 2014 at the Sacred Music Festival in Cuenca, Spain, performing with Barry Douglas and Camerata Ireland.

News briefs



Six **Mothers' Union** members from North Connor who completed the eight mile walk in the **Belfast City Marathon** on May Day. Raising funds for MU projects were Roslyn Graham,

Rena Lindsay, Anna Mullen, Caroline Glover,
Jean McDonald and Iris Hemphill.

Friday April 29th saw a church full of people participating in an occasion of joy and hope as **The Reverend Terrance Ian Mitchell was instituted as Rector of the Cloughjordan and Borrisokane** group of parishes in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan. The Venerable Wayne Carney was the preacher. He spoke about Jesus as the one who chooses. We were, he said, not simply celebrating the beginning of a new ministry in the parishes but also reminding ourselves that God chooses each and everyone of us to serve him.

Engage Connor Youth is holding a **Sports Tournament** for young people across the diocese in Ballymoney Parish on Saturday May 7 from 2-7pm. Sports will include dodgeball and volleyball. Fee is £5 per player and this will include a barbecue. All proceeds towards Streetreach 2016. christina@connor.anglican.org
<http://connor.anglican.org/children-youth/youth/>

Pentecost Celebration with IKON community
- Join with Christians from across Dublin for an evening of worship and teaching on the person

and work of the Holy Spirit with ICON Community and guest speaker the Revd Heather Morris. ICON are teaming up with Holy Trinity Rathmines and 24/7 Prayer Dublin, who will be helping host and pray for unity on the night. The event is free and open to everyone, but space is limited so please register if you are coming. Registering is very straightforward and can be easily done on line [here](#) at ICON's eventbrite page. Email [here](#) if you have any questions. Sunday 15th of May at 7:30pm. Centenary Methodist Church, Leeson Park, Dublin 6

Vacancy - Grants Administrator for The Secondary Education Committee - Founded in 1968, the Secondary Education Committee is a grant awarding body comprised of representatives of the four Reformed Christian Churches with patronage of a secondary school in the Republic of Ireland. The person appointed will administer and manage the allocation of grant aid to enable students attending recognised fee-charging Protestant Secondary Schools to attend such schools to avail of free second level education. The ideal candidate will have experience in accountancy and financial administration and will be familiar with conducting means tests, managing grant aid and

with the education sector. The position will be permanent part-time but with some full time hours required at specific times of the year. A detailed job description can be downloaded by [clicking here](#). Further details available at www.ireland.anglican.org/vacancies Closing date for receipt of completed applications, by CV is Tuesday the **24th May 2016** to: The Rt Rev Dr WP Colton, Chairman of the SEC, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, Ireland.

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

Former Drumcree minister backs Royal Black in church controversy

Belfast Newsletter

A cleric who was for many years at the centre of the most controversial loyal order dispute has given a passionate defence of the Royal Black Institution – after the Church of Ireland questioned its theology. Rev John Pickering served as the rector at Drumcree **Church of Ireland** parish through the area's most heated parading controversies of the 1980s and ...

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/former-drumcree-minister-backs-royal-black-in-church-controversy-1-7363488>

The privacy and secrecy of the Royal Black is for good reason

Belfast Newsletter

It is disheartening that the church deemed it an appropriate use of ... Especially given that **Church of Ireland** congregations are in terminal decline.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/the-privacy-and-secrecy-of-the-royal-black-is-for-good-reason-1-7361801>

['Restrictive' abortion laws to be questioned by UN members - Irish Times -- Tue, 03 May 2016](#)

York Post/York Press

Further coverage of the Archbishop of York's Pilgrimage of Prayer, Witness and Blessing. The *Yorkshire Post* reports that Archbishop Sentamu will join diners at a Friendship Lunch inspired by the paper's Loneliness campaign. The campaign launched monthly events to encourage people to reach out to others in the communities in order to help combat loneliness and social isolation in rural areas. It has been supported by charities including Age UK, and parish councils.

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/campaigns/archbishop-to-join-friendship-lunch-on-pilgrimage-1-7889893>

http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/14465375.The_Archbishop_of_York_continues_his_pilgrimage_around_North_Yorkshire/?ref=rss

Charity Today

Report that more than 80 NGOs and faith groups have written an open letter to US President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin calling on the two

leaders to "immediately use their personal diplomatic engagement to save what remains of the Cessation of Hostilities agreement (in Syria)." The Bishop of Coventry signed the letter on behalf of the CofE.

<http://www.charitytoday.co.uk/charities-pen-open-letter-leaders/>

BBC

Reports that the government is coming under increasing pressure to accept 3,000 child refugees from the Syrian war who have made it into Europe unaccompanied. A group of former Jewish refugees have urged the PM to "demonstrate compassion". Ministers argue that offering sanctuary to lone children could result in more falling into the hands of traffickers. There is a growing expectation that ministers might be about to change their minds ahead of a vote on the subject next week.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36200366>

Tel

Reports that the FA Chairman Greg Dyke has written to the Hillsborough families following the inquest which found the 96 who died in the disaster were unlawfully killed. Speaking about the verdicts for the first time, Mr Dyke said, "I met the families last year and the Bishop of Liverpool, and I have written to them since the inquest, which we have all been waiting for, and there are limits to what you can say unfortunately."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2016/05/03/fa-chairman-greg-dyke-writes-to-hillsborough-families/>

Sun

Article notes the upswing in Leicester City's results since the remains of King Richard III were reburied in the city's Cathedral in March last year.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/7123643/The-Kings-Power-Did-the-digging-up-of-Richard-III-lead-Leicester-to-the-Premier-League-title.html?redirect=true>

Metro

Reports the online criticism of the Pope received after he posted on Twitter, "Jesus Christ, the incarnation of God's mercy, out of love for us, died on the cross, and out of love he rose again from the dead."

<http://metro.co.uk/2016/05/03/people-are-giving-the-pope-a-hard-time-on-twitter-after-he-posted-about-jesus-5857344/>

Comment

Telegraph: Religious education is a matter for parents not schools, writes Christopher Howse.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/03/religious-education-is-a-matter-for-parents-not-schools/>

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