



CNI



Catholics support Church of England Pentecost prayer initiative

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting churches to pray for the evangelisation of the nation during the week before Pentecost Sunday. The Catholic bishops of England and Wales have asked Catholics to join in the

Anglican week of prayer for the conversion of the country.

The Archbishops have written to every serving parish priest in the Church of England expressing their longing “to see a great wave of prayer across our land, throughout the Church of England and many other Churches” from 8th-15th May.

The week of prayer will culminate in ‘Beacon Events’ around the country over Pentecost weekend, where people will pray for the renewal of the Holy Spirit and the confidence to share their faith...

Fr Christopher Thomas, general secretary of the Catholic bishops’ conference, told Vatican Radio that the bishops had responded positively to an appeal from the Anglican bishops to join a week of prayer, “Thy Kingdom Come”, leading up to Pentecost.

In a [letter](#) to every serving Anglican parish priest, the Church of England bishops called for “a week of prayer for the evangelisation of our nation” from 8-15 May. It will focus on the Lord’s Prayer, the Anglican bishops say. “Imagine every Anglican, perhaps even every Christian, in this nation praying that prayer together with the

specific intention that all may come to know Jesus as Lord,” they said.

The Anglican bishops note that the Lord’s Prayer “is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas” – a reference to last year’s [decision](#) not to permit a Church of England cinema advertisement based around the prayer.

The Church of England has proposed several ways in which churches can participate in the week of prayer, including a “prayer space”, making a plan to pray for five friends, and a novena starting on Friday and ending on Pentecost. The “Thy Kingdom Come” week is a fruit of the Anglican archbishops’ Task Group on Evangelism, which has emphasised the priority of mission.

<http://thykingdom.co.uk/>

Anglicans respond to Canadian town’s wildfire evacuation

The Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, has asked for “the prayers of the whole church” in response to a major



Traffic queuing on Highway 63 as residents of Fort McMurray flee the devastating wildfire

wildfire in Alberta that has resulted in the town of Fort McMurray and neighbouring communities being subjected to an enforced evacuation as firefighters predict that much of the town will be destroyed.

The entire population of Fort McMurray have left their homes and will be seeking shelter in neighbouring areas, including Edmonton and Athabasca. Bishop Jane Alexander of Edmonton and Bishop Fraser Lawton of Athabasca are co-ordinating the three-phase response of their dioceses.

The first phase will be to “address the immediate needs of evacuees”, they say, both on arrival and once the evacuation centres have been established.

The second phase will begin when the fires are out and will help people seeking to return to their homes. Some, they say, “sadly, will have no homes to go to.”

The third phase will involve “recovery and rebuilding and will include respite and pastoral care.” The two bishops are working together to develop that support.

Bishop Jane has asked church members to act as temporary hosts for evacuees; and the Diocese of Athabasca is asking its church members to “check-in” on Facebook “so that we can advise your clergy and confirm your safety.”

Mission to Seafarers fundraising challenge to yacht enthusiasts

The Mission to Seafarers has been chosen as the nominated charity of this year’s Posidonia Cup sailing regatta; and have been given the use of a yacht to compete in next month’s race in Faliron Bay off the coast of Athens. Now the



Anglican mission agency is looking for a crew to help them compete in the competition.

It is the first time that the agency has competed in any kind of yacht race but they have already appointed a skipper and two additional crew members. Now they are looking to recruit another five or six more crew members and they are asking for donations of £500 for the privilege of taking part.

“They don’t have to be experienced,” the Mission to Seafarers’ Laura Brown said, “although it would be beneficial if they were as they would get more enjoyment out of it and we would have a better chance of winning!”

Despite the bullish comments, Laura Brown admits that the Mission to Seafarers has little chance of winning; because the competing “companies take it very, very seriously.”

Posidonia brings together the largest gathering of international shipping professionals for a conference and exhibition. This year’s event takes place from 6 to 10 June at the Metropolitan Expo in Athens, Greece. The last event, in 2014, saw a record 1,843 exhibitors and 20,000 buyers from 96 countries attend what is billed as “the largest gathering in the international shipping calendar.”

In the build-up to this year’s event, participants can take place in the Posidonia Cup on 3 June; a running event on 4 June; and a golf tournament and "shipsoccer" on 5 June.

New Zealand synod debates “Way Forward” on same-sex relationships

The week-long biennial meeting of the General Synod of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia got underway today (Friday) and amongst the items for debate is the

report by the “Way Forward Working Group” on the blessing of same-sex marriages.

The report, which was requested by the last meeting of the General Synod in 2014, proposes [new liturgies for the blessing of civil marriages](#). In the case of New Zealand, this would include same-sex marriages, which have been lawful since 2013.

The working group say that the proposed new rites of blessing are “additional formularies” rather than doctrinal changes: “It is the view of the majority of the group that the proposed liturgies do not represent a departure from the Doctrine and Sacraments of Christ, and are therefore not prohibited by [the Church’s constitution], however the group also recognises that this will be a crucial matter for debate.”

The motion being debated by the General Synod next week asks members to accept the recommendations in the report and to “endorse in principle, for consideration, the proposed new formularies for use in public worship, and the changes to the canons of the Church set out in the report” but it says that the proposed changes should be forwarded to the dioceses of the church so that they can indicate “their assent or otherwise to the proposed changes” ahead of churchnewsireland@gmail.com

a further consideration by the next General Synod in 2018.

Two dioceses have already intervened. The Christchurch Diocesan Synod have proposed a motion that states that the General Synod “does not adopt any recommendations without first referring the report to the Synods . . . of this Church for discussion, and resources a significant period of education, discussion and discernment throughout this Church.”

And the Nelson Diocesan Synod have tabled a motion calling for “at least four years of intentional theological reflection, education and discussion across our Church on the substance and impact of the [proposed changes].”

The debate on the Way Forward Group’s report will take place on Monday. [Other matters](#) set to tax the mind of the General Synod during the next week include the issues of gender-based violence, child poverty, women’s leadership, the housing crisis and welcoming refugees.

On climate change, the General Synod will debate carbon offsetting and look at the disaster preparation of the Pacific islands.

Church order, ecumenical relationships and liturgical matters also will be discussed, including inter-changeability of Methodist and Anglican clergy, changes to the practice of confirmation, and vocations to the ordained ministry.

.newsmain

Tribute to Lisburn Scout District Commissioner

Tributes have been paid to Noel Irwin, parishioner and newly appointed People's Warden at St Mark's, Ballymacash, who has retired after 11 years as District Commissioner of Lisburn and District Scouts.

During the St George's Day service in Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church, Billy Mawhinney, District President, said Noel joined 1st Ballymacash as a cub scout.

He was a scout with 1st Derriaghy and later 64th Belfast scout troop before joining the Venture Scouts in Lisburn and gaining his Queen's Scout Badge.

In 1983 Noel became an assistant Beaver Leader and two years later became Ballymacash



Incoming District Commissioner Audrey Morrow pictured presenting a retirement gift to outgoing District Commissioner Noel Irwin in recognition of his service to scouting in the Lisburn area. Looking on is Billy Mawhinney (District President).

Cub Scout Leader. At just 21, he organised his first cub camp when he took the pack to Portumna, County Galway. As well as running his own cub pack, he was Assistant District Commissioner, Public Relations (2002 to 2005).

In 2000 Noel was awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for his services to scouting and in 2005 he was appointed District Commissioner. In 2006 he was awarded the Medal of Merit and in 2014 the Silver Acorn.

Billy said: “During his 11 year tenure as District Commissioner, Noel was a gifted team leader and had the great ability to convince leaders to extend their scouting activities and become an ADC and help running the District. Under Noel’s leadership the District has grown and there are now over 1,100 boys, girls and leaders in the District.

“To all scout leaders, Noel was not just the boss, he was a friend who was always there for help, guidance and assistance.”

After Billy’s tribute, Audrey Morrow, incoming District Commissioner, presented Noel with a gift in recognition of his exemplary service to scouting in the Lisburn area. Audrey, District Explorer Scout Commissioner (DESC) and Assistant Scout Leader (ASL) with 1st Derriaghy, takes over from Noel at the end of June.

Cathedral and choral

St Anne’s Cathedral will welcome Belfast Philharmonic’s Phil Kids and Phil Youth Choirs for their 10th anniversary concert on Saturday May 7.



The choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, took to the parapets to sing for Ascension Day - yesterday

The choirs will be accompanied by the Ulster Orchestra, conducted by Lynsey Callaghan.

The Phil Kids and Phil Youth Choirs were founded in 2006 with support from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and are unique choirs for young singers in Northern Ireland.

The choirs offer young people the opportunity to sing weekly with a highly trained group, combining singing with games and musicianship

training using Kodaly methodology. They take part in two annual concerts, sometimes also performing with the Belfast Philharmonic Choir and the Ulster Orchestra.

Singing together helps the young people to make new friends, build their confidence and boost their social skills. Young people can work towards their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

In 2012 Belfast Philharmonic entered into a partnership with the National Youth Choir of Scotland.

There are now four choirs: The Phil Kids Training Choir is made up of boys and girls aged 8–9; The Phil Kids Children's Choir is for children aged 9–11; The Phil Youth Choir is for young people aged 11–14 singing in three parts; and the Belfast Philharmonic Chamber Choir is a four part mixed voice choir of young people aged 14–18

Phil Kids recruits mainly through workshops with P4 children. Recruitment workshops this year will be held on Tuesday May 24 and Wednesday May 25 at St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6FP. Contact philyouth@belfastphilharmonic.org.uk or visit <http://www.belfastphilharmonic.org.uk/> for

further information. Older young singers may be admitted by audition on application.

The 10th anniversary concert in St Anne's Cathedral begins at 7pm on Saturday May 7 and tickets are £15 or £5 for children aged 3+. Contact Phil Youth on 07792 448929.

News briefs



Tuam installations - The Rt Revd Patrick Rooke, Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, the Revd Andrea Willis, Prebendary of Taghsaxon

and Laccagh; the Very Revd Alistair Grimason, Dean of Tuam; the Very Revd Stan Evans, Provost of Tuam; and the Most Revd Alan Harper, formerly Archbishop of Armagh. The Very Revd. Stan Evans was Installed Provost of Tuam and the Revd. Andrea Wills was Installed to the Prebendary of Taghsaxon and Laccagh.

The Rev Cheryl Meban, Presbyterian chaplain for the Jordanstown and Belfast campuses of the University of Ulster, leaves today for Havana for a week of **World Communion of Reformed Churches** executive committee meetings. She comments, "I'm so looking forward to seeing all the friends (about 30) who have been on this journey with me for the past 6 years - and some for many more. I have been learning about communion, about justice - also about kindness, mercy, forgiveness, grace, and about conflicts, injustices, solidarity, compassion, prayerful crying out to God for changes to the way the human race does economics, climate, gender, culture, power... Thank you, all of you".

Year of Mercy Pilgrimage Carndonagh -

Sunday 8th May 2016: Gathering at Sacred Heart Church, Carndonagh, at 2.00pm. Opportunity for Confessions. Procession to the Donagh Cross leaves at 2.40pm, led by Altar

Servers, Choir, two representatives from each parish, general congregation, followed by clergy and Bishop McKeown. Hymns and Rosary along the way. Pilgrims will carry a Year of Mercy candle during the procession. Tree of Mercy ceremony and Mass at the Donagh Cross at 3.00pm. Everyone welcome.



There will be a performance of the play, **'Woodbine Willie – Poet & Padre'** in Willowfield Parish Church on Wednesday 11 May at 7.30 pm. Presented by the **Searchlight Theatre Company** with support from the Church of Ireland Historical Centenaries Working Group.

Tickets: £4 per person. Available from Micah Centre Office by contacting (028) 90453041.

Archbishop Michael Jackson will preside at the **Institution of the Revd Anthony Kelly as Rector of the Holmpatrick Group** of Parishes in Holmpatrick Parish Church, Skerries, on Wednesday May 18 at 8.00 pm.

Christians in Science is an international network of people interested in the relationship between science and faith. CiS Ireland is one of 17 local groups, and one of their key activities is to host monthly public lectures at The Hub.

May's lecture is titled **'Why Jonah Can't Swallow a Whale: A Look at What Science Can and Can't Explain'**, by Graham Veale (City of Armagh High School, and author of [*New Atheism: A Survival Guide*](#).) Tuesday, 24 May, 2016 - 19:30. Venue: The Hub, 22 Elmwood Avenue Belfast Co. Antrim BT9
6AEmail: manager@thehubbelfast.org Website with further details: <http://www.thehubbelfast.org/event/cis-may16/>

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland - will take place from Thursday 12th May to Saturday 14th May at the Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire. The Synod is scheduled to

commence in the conference centre at the Royal Marine Hotel at 12.00 noon on Thursday 12th, following the Synod Eucharist which will take place in St Paul's Church, Glenageary, at 10.00am. On the following days, the Synod will begin in the conference centre at 10.00am. Business will finish at 6.30pm on Thursday and Friday and is scheduled to finish at 4.30pm on Saturday. Each morning begins with a short act of worship, which this year will be led by the Rt Revd Kenneth Kearon, Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe. The preacher at the Synod Eucharist on Thursday 12th will be the Rt Revd Patrick Rooke, Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. The Archbishop of Armagh's Presidential Address will take place shortly after 12.00 noon on the first day, Thursday 12th. The General Synod's website is now live at: <http://synod.ireland.anglican.org/2016>

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

NI Education Authority warns of 'pressures' after £22m budget cut

BBC News

The head of Northern Ireland's Education Authority (EA) warns it is facing "very real pressures" as a result of a £22m reduction in its budget.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36205630>

Racism is the new sectarianism

Irish News

Racial hatred and xenophobia pose a greater threat to long-term peace in Northern Ireland than sectarianism, according to a former Belfast pastor.

http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/05/05/news/racism-the-new-sectarianism-in-northern-ireland-according-to-former-belfast-pastor-509505/?mc_cid=655585d697&mc_eid=23f2f80c40

Gay election candidate Conor Duncan suffers homophobic abuse at chapel

Irish News

SDLP election candidate claims a woman called him "disgusting" and "filth" while he was canvassing outside a Catholic Church in Co Antrim

http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2016/05/04/news/gay-election-candidate-suffers-homophobic-abuse-outside-mass-508519/?mc_cid=c503c4c748&mc_eid=23f2f80c40

Salvatorians apologize for failing to protect Irish children from abusive priest

Catholic World Report

The Salvatorians have offered their "deepest apology" for failing to stop a priest who ...

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<http://www.catholicworldreport.com/NewsBriefs/Default.aspx?rssGuid=salvatorians-apologize-for-failing-to-protect-irish-children-from-abusive-priest-80070/>

Catholic priest visited girl's family home after she made abuse allegation

The Journal

The latest tranche of child protection reviews found 288 allegations were made against the Catholic Church.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/child-sex-abuse-catholic-church-2750274-May2016/>

BBC/Shropshire Star

Report of a trial at Shrewsbury Crown Court in which Kevin McGarahan, a retired priest, is accused of indecently assaulting a girl at his house in Telford in 1995. The court heard that despite the girl's mother complaining, no action was taken until a review conducted by the Diocese of Hereford in 2014. Mr McGarahan denies indecent assault. The trial continues.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-shropshire-36204024>

<http://www.shropshirestar.com/news/2016/05/04/telford-vicar-indecently-assaulted-girl-15-court-told/>

BBC

Briefing and background article on the case of George Bell, the former Bishop of Chichester. In October 2015 the Church revealed it had made a payment to someone who had made a complaint against Bell. The current Bishop of Chichester, Martin Warner, made a formal apology for allegations, dating from the late 1940s and early 1950s, of "sexual offences against an individual

who was at the time a young child". Includes comment from Bell biographer Andrew Chandler and the NSPCC.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-35971308>

Times/BBC/Ind

Report that the Government has backed down over the issue of allowing unaccompanied child refugees from Syria into the UK. Facing the possible loss of a vote in the Commons on the issue next week, Mr Cameron used Prime Minister's Question Time to make the announcement. "We are going to do more for children who were already registered in Europe before the EU-Turkey deal. But we must stick to the principle that we shouldn't be encouraging people to make that perilous journey," he said.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/britain-beckons-child-refugees-j5mr8mjl6>

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

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-cameron-backtracks-on-refusal-to-resettle-refugee-children-from-inside-europe-a7012826.html>

Ind

Reports that scientists at Cambridge University have grown a human embryo in a laboratory for 13 days, twice the length of time than was previously possible. The breakthrough which could "revolutionise" medicine, also raises fresh ethical questions about when life begins, says the article. The Rev Dr Brendan McCarthy, the CofEs national adviser on medical ethics is quoted.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/human-embryos-grown-lab-test-tube-ivf-fertility-genetic-diseases-disability-medical-ethics-a7013656.html>

Mail/BBC

Reports of the funeral of Lauren Heath, who was killed in a road accident in Reading, saving the life of her daughter, by pushing her pram out of the way of a lorry. The Revd Vernon Orr who conducted the funeral service is quoted and interviewed in the *Mail*.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/video/news/video-1288639/Lauren-Heath-tragedy-Vicar-tells-BBC-effect-community.html>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-36190750>

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/>

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