



## Council of Churches in Korea issues emergency letter to President Moon

In an emergency letter to South Korean president Moon Jae-In, the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK) urged immediate dialogue to ease military tension in the Korean Peninsula.

In the letter, the NCCCK reiterated its hope to see a peaceful reunification of South and North

August 11



**Rev. Kim Young Ju, general secretary of NCK**

Korea, but tension has has caused grave concern. “To make matters worse, President Trump has declared that ‘North Korea would face fire and fury, one never witnessed by the world,’ ” states the letter. “Military tension is at its height in the Korean peninsula and there is fear of war spreading among the people.”

The lives of the people in South Korea should not be threatened by the provocative acts of the US and North Korea, said the letter. “The road to peace is a difficult one, but the harder it gets the more important it is that we keep the principle,” the letter states. “We cannot start sincere

August 11

dialogues when we place blame for the opponent's extreme actions or when we insist various pre-conditions for dialogue."

The NCKK expressed its readiness to take active participation. "In order to transform the present crisis into an opportunity and open the door for dialogue, we humbly ask you to immediately dispatch a special envoy to North Korea," the letter concluded. "Our prayers will be with you always, as you are desperately struggling for a better future of our country."

## **Guam pastor makes appeal amid North Korea threat**

A pastor in Guam has encouraged "people everywhere" to pray after North Korea announced plans to fire missiles towards the US territory.

Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Agana, central Guam, Rob Puckett also said people on the Pacific island territory are familiar with the long-term threat North Korea has posed.

He said "I would encourage people everywhere to pray for the... leaders all around the world that can influence this."

August 11



North Korea threatened to launch a strike towards Guam after Donald Trump said the US would respond with "fire and fury like the world has never seen" if North Korea continued its threatening rhetoric.

Pyongyang announced that plans would be ready by mid-August for the firing of four Hwasong-12 missiles into waters as close as 20 miles from Guam.

The proposals would be submitted to President Kim Jong Un who would have the ultimate say over whether they come into fruition.

August 11

Mr Puckett went on to say: "The leaders of Russia, China, Japan, South Korea, the United States as well as North Korea all have the ability to influence the situation at some level.

"Hopefully, they will do what they can to come to a peaceful resolution that will create a lasting sense of peace."

There are currently 160,000 people - including 7,000 military personnel - living on Guam (pictured above), where is 2,100 miles east of the Korean Peninsula. The island hosts two major US military bases.

## **Methodist minister who oversaw IRA decommissioning "would be very comfortable" in a united Ireland**

A Methodist minister who oversaw the decommissioning of the Provisional IRA's arms has said he would be "very comfortable" in a united Ireland, The Irish News reports.

However, Reverend Harold Good qualified that his support for Irish unity would be "depending on what you mean by a united Ireland".

August 11

The clergyman, who was an independent witness to IRA decommissioning in 2005 along with Catholic priest Fr Alec Reid, made the comments during a Féile an Phobail event in west Belfast on Tuesday.

Asked about his views on the union by an audience member, Rev Good said his grandfather had been involved in collecting weapons in Larne more than a century ago to be used by unionists to fight Home Rule.

He said: "I would be very comfortable in a united Ireland, as long as....it was John Hume who said that you have got to unite the people before you unite Ireland.

"I say unapologetically to my friends within unionism, for goodness sake, let's have this conversation.

"It would be much better to prepare yourselves for those realities and be part of that reality rather than resisting...something changes overnight and you wake up some morning."

Rev Good added: "I am a unionist, that is where I come from and I am comfortable with it. But depending on what you mean by a united Ireland...if it was talked through and thought through."

August 11

Meanwhile, Rev Good said that he has approached the Habitat for Humanity charity about the prospect of "bonfire builders" putting their energies to use in house building projects.

The minister said he was compelled to act after hearing a Nolan Show caller describe bonfires as "all we live for".

He said: "'I thought; this is all we live for? Come on!'

"So I have been in touch with Habitat for Humanity and we are going to see if we can get a bonfire builders Habitat team.

"To work somewhere, in some place, where they will have the opportunity to build houses for people who have never had a home. And they are not going to burn it down the next day," added Rev Good.

A spokeswoman for Habitat for Humanity said the charity was "exploring" options with Rev Good.

She said: "Reconciliation and regeneration is at the heart of our work locally. When we bring people together from different backgrounds to improve the living conditions of the most

August 11

vulnerable, we break down barriers and help build a shared future.

"As a patron of our work for many years, Rev Harold Good knows how powerful our work can be for all who take part and we are exploring with him and others new ways of engaging young people from the most deprived communities."

## **Priests turn to suicide as workload and isolation increase**

As many as eight Irish priests have died by suicide over the past decade, Patsy McGarry writes in the Irish Times.

The lot of the Irish Catholic priest today is probably at its most difficult since Catholic Emancipation in 1829.

Over recent months a series of regional meetings organised by the Association of Catholic Priests (ACP) has been attended by priests from dioceses throughout the island.

Each meeting has heard similar stories of an ageing cohort of clergy struggling with isolation, dropping income, an increasing workload, mental health issues and an overriding sense of

August 11

futility. This latter is inspired by knowledge that an older, 19th-century model of church is disappearing with no indication yet as to what the future will bring.

Yet it still came as a shock to many to hear that as many as eight Irish priests have died by suicide over the past decade, as those regional meetings were told by members of the association's leadership team.

### **Sense of futility**

One of that team is Fr [Tim Hazelwood](#), parish priest at Killeagh in rural Co Cork. At 58, he is towards the younger end of Catholic clergy in Ireland, whose average age now is approaching 70.

He recalled that another feature of the ACP regional meetings was the sense of futility on the part of priests at “upholding the past as more and more work was piled on”.

He remembered a priest in his 40s at one meeting remarking how he dreaded to hear people say “you have great ability/are a great worker” as it would mean he “could be loaded with three or four more parishes”.

August 11

And all this in a context “where the future is not known yet and few dioceses have had any dialogue about it with priests and laity, apart from the synod in Limerick,” he said.

He quoted association colleague Fr Brendan Hoban, who wrote recently that three Irish bishops have acknowledged what the ACP has been saying for years about “the catastrophic decline (almost disappearance) of vocations to the priesthood and its implications for the survival of the [Catholic Church](#) in Ireland”.

## **Dromore charity Via Wings start Walk of Hope to Dublin**

Twenty people from Dromore charity Via Wings have set out on a Walk of Hope from Dromore to Dublin. Staff and volunteers will cover almost 100 miles over four days to raise awareness for mental health.

This is one of the charity’s biggest ventures so far and underlines their conviction that mental health difficulties are at the root of most of the problems they see in the course of their work.

Tori McKinstry, speaking on behalf of Via Wings explained: “For a depressed person on a bad

August 11



### **A token of encouragement from Via Wings**

day, the hardest thing to do is to get out of bed ... to walk. As a staff team and with the help of volunteers, we are coming alongside one another to Walk in Hope, as a team of people who are passionate to raise awareness and spread the message that you are not alone.”

The group will walk through towns making connections with local mental health charities along the way and handing out small tokens of encouragement.

August 11

They aim to raise at least £5,000 which will go towards a therapeutic suite in their new building, providing therapies and relaxation techniques.

After a bacon buttie breakfast, the walkers left from Via Wings' coffee shop, The Olive Branch, and Bishop Harold and the Dean of Dromore, Geoff Wilson, were there to see them off.

Bishop Harold said: "The Walk of Hope is a real demonstration of Christlike compassion – anger at how lives are being destroyed by this illness matched with a love that wants to actually do something about it.

"Via Wings is very much in touch with the needs of this community and I am so impressed by how they have developed the work to meet each need as it surfaces. I wish them well on their journey and urge people to give as much support as they can."

Find out more and donate through the JustGiving page [here](#).

### Route

- Day 1: Dromore – Newry
- Day 2: Newry to Castlebellingham
- Day 3: Castlebellingham to Julianstown
- Day 4: Julianstown to Dublin

August 11



## **Irish Methodist President stress importance of ‘connexion’**

In his first President’s Letter to the *Methodist Newsletter*, Dr Graham reflects on ‘Connexion’, the idea that, as a Church, church members are all connected to each other. The spelling dates from the 18th century when its principle was laid

August 11

out by John Wesley and can be stated as follows:

... it enshrines a vital truth about the nature of the Church. It witnesses to a mutuality and interdependence which derive from the participation of all Christians through Christ in the very life of God Himself (*Called to love and praise* – Paragraph 4.6.1. Methodist Church in Britain).

In our daily lives, there is frequently a tension between working together cooperatively and doing our own thing. Dr Graham stresses the former as being the better way forward. He concludes his letter as follows:

‘Connexionalism is missional. I know people here in Ireland who have joined the Methodist Church specifically because we are a Connexion with structures and organisational safeguards. Structure is not our mission but good structure will facilitate our mission. Let us celebrate the gift of connexionalism and show the world that mutual interdependence can and does work!’

## **Celebration of Kildare saint**

The annual service to celebrate the feast of St Mochua takes place in St John's Church,

August 11

Clondalkin at 8.00 pm this Thursday, August 10, the Leinster Leader reports.

The annual commemoration rotates on a four-yearly cycle between Timahoe, Rathcoffey, Celbridge and Clondalkin (where he is known as St Cronan).

This year it is in Clondalkin.

A bonus for those attending will be that from 6.30pm the new Round Tower Heritage Centre "Bru Cronain" will be open before the service. The service proper takes place at 8.00 pm in St John's Church followed by refreshments in St John's Hall.

For the organisers, it is a great opportunity to remember Mochua/Cronain whose evangelising itinerary took him across the modern county boundaries of Dublin and Kildare.

Last year, on August 19, Rathcoffey History Group hosted the annual ecumenical services for St Mochua.

Four history groups take it in turns to host the event, including Celbridge, Clondalkin and Timahoe.

August 11

The Rathcoffey service was conducted last year by Roman Catholic deacon, John Dunleavy, from the Clane/Rathcoffey parish and Church of Ireland deacon, John Hillis, from the Coolcarrigan/Timahoe parish.

The address was given by Ethan Bracken on the history and architecture of Rathcoffey Church.

The idea for the event, bringing together the locations linked to St Mochua, began in 2007, spurred by the Clondalkin group and the late Joe Williams.

## **New Assistant Diocesan Secretary for the Diocese of Cashel**

The Diocese is happy to announce the appoint of Rita Cammaer as Assistant Diocesan Secretary for the Diocese of Cashel Ferns & Ossory.

Rita will commence in this position on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2017.

Rita Cammaer who is originally from Belgium, came to Ireland after meeting her husband in Africa where they were both working in development aid.

August 11



She worked in project management for various organisations in the areas of sustainable agriculture and climate change, and worked as an administrator with the Institute of Technology in Carlow. She lives in the Carlow-Tullow area and has two children who are currently attending Kilkenny College.

## **US cleric publishing Hillary Clinton Bible devotional**

The daily devotions former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was sent during the 2016

August 11



presidential campaign is being published by a minister.

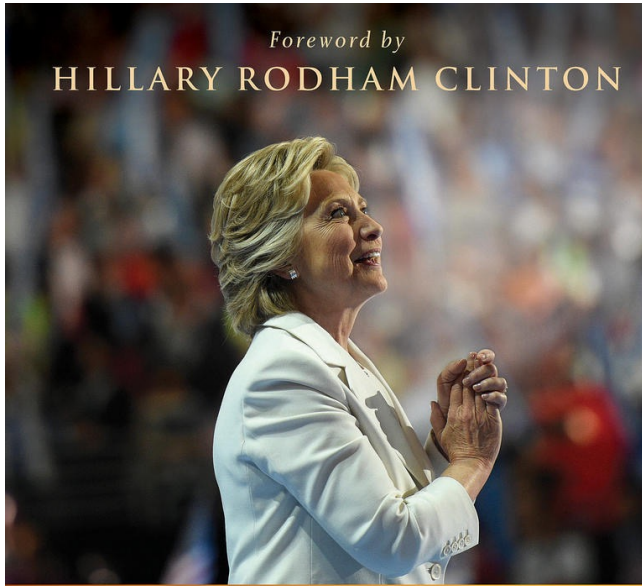
Titled *Strong for a Moment Like This: The Daily Devotions of Hillary Rodham Clinton*, the book will include 365 of the over 600 devotions as well as a forward by Clinton herself.

The Christian Democratic nominee received a devotion daily over the course of 20 months from Rev Dr Bill Shillady, a United Methodist minister and a few other pastors.

They were sent to help Clinton "stay strong through arguably one of the more contentious elections in American history", according to the book's description on Abingdon Press.

Rev Shillady, who is the executive director of the New York-based United Methodist City Society, will be releasing the book on 15th August 2017.

August 11



# STRONG

for a MOMENT LIKE THIS

— ★ ★ ★ —  
The DAILY DEVOTIONS of  
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

REV. DR. BILL SHILLADY

It will also include personal notes, portions of Clinton's speeches, and headlines that provide context for that day's devotion.

Clinton, who grew up as a Methodist, said she became a Democrat because of her Christian values.

August 11

A portion of the proceeds from the book will go to the United Methodist City Society in New York.

**CNI**