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CNI

Archbishop of Armagh revisits most southerly village in Ireland for parish's 300 celebration



Two former rectors of Kilmoe Union were also present on Sunday 6th August. At the Service were (l-r) Canon Nicholas Cummins, the

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Archbishop of Armagh, Canon Eithne Lynch, the Bishop, and Canon Trevor Lester.

The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Reverend Dr Richard Clarke, was the guest preacher at a service last Sunday marking Crookhaven Parish's 300th anniversary. Archbishop Clarke preached on the Transfiguration which was highlighted in readings of the day. This was the Archbishop's 27th visit to the church in the most southerly village on the Irish mainland.

During the week beginning Sunday, 30th July 2017 and concluding the following Sunday, 6th August, the Parish of Kilmoe Union and the little village of Crookhaven, Co. Cork, where the rector is Canon Trevor Lester, were commemorating the 300th anniversary of the building of the Church of St Brendan the Navigator. It is a church which is open each summer Sunday evening for the Office of Compline. There is no electricity, so the Service takes place by oil lamp, gas light and candle light, as well as the evening light that comes through the windows of this coastal church which is within sight of the Fastnet Rock.

On Sunday, 23rd July there was a reunion of people from the Diocese who, as members of

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Rabbi Baroness Julia Neuberger, Mrs Susan Colton and Dr Paul Colton at the West Cork History Festival

the Youth Council in 1980s had travelled down for a weekend each year to make the church and churchyard ready for the summer season. On Sunday, 30th July the Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton marked the 300th Anniversary by giving a sermon which included the history of the church. In the course of his Episcopal Visitation of 1700, Bishop Dive Downes had noted that there were only 9

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Protestant families in the area. It was his successor, Bishop Peter Browne, who, at his own expense, built the current church in 1717.

Bishop Colton first preached in the church as an ordinand on 1st August 1982. His sermon on the occasion of this year's tercentenary is [here](#).

The summer series continues in this tercentenary year. On Sunday, 13th August the preacher will be the Venerable Adrian Wilkinson, Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. On Sunday, 20th August the preacher will be Rabbi Julia Neuberger, herself a resident within the Parish.

Appropriately, the last word this summer will be by the Rector himself, Canon Trevor Lester, who has announced his intention to retire on 31st October.

Line up of free events for Heritage Week at St Patrick's Cathedral

Heritage Week is back from August 19 to 26 and St Patrick's Cathedral is offering more events than ever before. The eternally popular lunchtime and evening recital series return with performances from Roderick Elms and Joanna Smith, David Leigh and the Phoenix Five among others, followed by late evenings in the

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At the Festival Dinner of the West Cork History Festival (l-r) Dr Simon Kingston (Festival Founder), the Patrons of the Festival (Gilliam Kingston, Dr Paul Colton and John Spearman) and Professor Roy Foster.

Cathedral with photography nights, heritage table quiz and a special scavenger hunt.

They're hosting not one but two talks on Jonathan Swift, approaching his life from different angles, as well as special thematic tours that are unique to Heritage Week. There will be a family day on August 19 with storytelling, a lunchtime Disney concert and

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Peter and the Wolf performed on the Cathedral organ.

All events for the week are completely free of charge, but with most likely to book out, advance registration is recommended. Click here to see the full programme for Heritage Week 2017 at St Patrick's Cathedral.

First West Cork History Festival an outstanding success

The inaugural West Cork History Festival, the brainchild of Dr Simon Kingston, was held at his home outside Skibbereen, County Cork on Friday 28th, Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th July.

The Festival attracted many crowds from diverse backgrounds, as well as significant media interest, an indication of the importance of the subjects being raised as well as interest in history generally.

The inaugural lecture was given in a packed arena by Professor Roy Foster: *"A Fair People": antagonism and conflict in Irish history*. While much of the programme that attracted media interest related to the period 1916 to 1923

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(including the lecture of Dr Andy Bielenberg and the showing of the RTE programme *An Tost Fada* about Canon George Salter and his family from this Diocese).

There were also other dimensions to the Festival such as *Protestant depopulation and upheaval in Southern Ireland from 1845 to 1950* (Professor David Fitzpatrick), *The Great Earl of Cork* (Dr David Edwards), *The second Earl of Cork and his children* (Dr Patrick Little), *Tower Houses in Ireland* (Dr Terry Barry), *Tower Houses in West Cork* (Finola Finlay), *The Architecture of Bishop Lucey's Churches in Cork* (Richard Butler), *The Knights Templar and Ireland* (Dr Dominic Selwood), *Piracy off the West Cork Coast* (Connie Kelleher), *The O'Donovan Family of Muintervara, Durrus* (Pat Crowley), *Fenianism in Skibbereen* (William Casey), *Sectarianism in Ireland: its History and Impact on the Northern Ireland Peace Process* (Professor Marianne Elliott), and *Duelling in Ireland* (Lar Joye).

Two ambassadors gave papers: HE Ambassador Dan Mulhall (on two writers – Francis Ledwidge and AE), and HE Ambassador Kevin Vickers (on Irish-born Canadian soldiers in the First World War). The Festival concluded with a lecture by

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‘House of Cards’ author, Michael Dobbs on *Life, Lust and Liquor: how House of Cards wrote itself*.

The Festival was supported by the Diocesan Board of Education in Cork, Cloyne and Ross, and the Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, is one of the patrons of the Festival. Bishop Colton said, “We are in the midst of a period of centenaries in Ireland, and the commemorations which lie ahead in coming years impacted distinctively and, indeed, in some ways, disproportionately in County Cork.

It is important that, as in the 1916 commemorations, members of the Church of Ireland engage with these commemorations to listen to the many strands of remembrance and interpretation, to hear other people’s stories as well as to tell their own story. For these reasons, in the main, I was keen to support Dr Simon Kingston by accepting his invitation to be one of the Patrons of the Festival.”

First ever Jesuit bishop ordained in Ireland

A member of the Jesuit Order has been ordained a bishop in Ireland in a marked departure for the Irish Catholic Church.

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Bishop Alan McGuckian, 64, was ordained Bishop of Raphoe on Sunday, the first ever member of the Jesuit Order to be appointed a bishop in Ireland.

Archbishop Eamon Martin ordained the new bishop at the Cathedral of Saints Eunan and Columba in Letterkenny, Co Donegal.

In his homily, Archbishop Martin paid tribute to Bishop McGuckian's family: "I am grateful to your family, your late parents, Brian and Pauline, and to the various families of faith which have helped to nurture and sustain your vocation," he said.

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Bishop McGuckian, from Cloughmills, Co Antrim, was appointed after Pope Francis accepted the resignation of the long-standing Bishop of Raphoe, Philip Boyce.

In 2013, Pope Francis became the first Jesuit pontiff.

The new Bishop of Raphoe worked as a secondary school teacher before training for the priesthood. Two of his siblings, Fr Bernard and Fr Michael, are also Jesuit priests.

Since 2012 he has been director of the Diocese of Down and Connor's Living Church office in Belfast.

An Irish language enthusiast, Bishop McGuckian served as editor of the Irish language magazine An Timire and the Jesuits' Irish language publishing organisation 'Foilseachain Abhair Spiordalta'.

Evangelical group urges DUP to use its influence on gambling reform

The DUP is facing the first public pressure from an element of its support base to use its key Westminster role to influence UK-wide

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Fixed odds betting has been called the crack cocaine of gambling

government policy, SamMcBride reports in the News Letter

Until now, the DUP's supporters have overwhelmingly endorsed the party's deal with the Tories which has secured £1 billion for public services in Northern Ireland, and influential groups such as the Orange Order have explicitly said that they will not make demands of Arlene Foster's party. But now the evangelical Christian lobby group CARE – which has a close relationship with the DUP and helped draft legislation the party got through Stormont in 2015 which criminalised men who pay for sex in

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Northern Ireland – has called on the DUP to act over gambling.

In a statement headed ‘DUP under pressure to stop alleged government plans to scrap Gambling Review’, the lobby group said it was “very concerned” at reports that the chancellor was calling for the government’s review of gambling to be scrapped. The Daily Mail reported that Philip Hammond had specifically blocked slashing the maximum stake per spin of fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs), high-stakes machines which critics have dubbed ‘the crack cocaine of gambling’. There is uncertainty over the government’s position on the issue, with conflicting reports about whether the changes will go ahead. CARE said that the terminals – where up to £100 can be wagered every two seconds – have been linked to crippling debt, crime, mental health issues, family breakdown and suicide. CARE’s Northern Ireland policy officer, Mark Baillie, said: “Now that the DUP play a significant role in ensuring the Conservative government remain in power they must hold Theresa May and the Conservative Party to account over their commitment to create a fairer society.

“FOBT’s do not fit into this narrative – they may work for the bookmakers and the taxman – but

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not for problem gamblers, their families or society as a whole.” When asked if the DUP would seek to use its influence with the government on the issue, the party pointed the News Letter to comments from Sammy Wilson last month in which he said that the FOBT reforms have “the support of churches, local authorities, The Royal Society for Public Health and every political party in Westminster”. He added: “The case for this change is clear and I urge the government to act now to cut the stake. There is no excuse for the misery these machines are causing and the problems associated with them are obvious.”

Pioneer of women's ministry honoured by United Reformed Church

The United Reformed Church is to celebrate a hundred years since the ordination of the first woman to become a minister in a mainstream British denomination.

Constance Coltman was ordained into the Congregational Union of England and Wales on September 17, 1917.

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Constance Coltman's centenary is being celebrated by the United Reformed Church.

Among events marking the occasion will be a Global Pioneers' Conference on September 14-16, a public lecture on September 16 and a thanksgiving service at the American International Church, Tottenham Court Road, London, on September 17 - the same church where the memorial service for Constance Coltman took place in 1969.

A Presbyterian by upbringing, Coltman was born Constance Mary Todd in Putney, London. – the eldest of four children. Her Scottish father was a

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civil servant, and her mother a doctor, though unable to practise following a domestic accident.

She read history in Somerville College, Oxford but was unable to become a minister in the Presbyterian Church of England, so applied to the Congregational foundation of Mansfield College, Oxford.

The College's Principal Dr Selbie said he admitted Constance to training because of her deep sense of God's call. She married a fellow ordinand, Claud Coltman, and they were ordained together as assistant ministers in Wapping.

At a time when women were expected to give up paid employment on their marriage, she combined ministry with marriage and motherhood, something none of her female contemporaries achieved. Constance managed this partly because she and Claud operated a ministerial job-share, living on one ministerial stipend. She used her private money to subsidise the household and, after the birth of two daughters and son, to pay for help at home.

She and her husband had a series of joint ministries together. A lifelong pacifist, active

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member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation since 1915, and a vice-president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, she and Claud marched with the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in the late 1950s and supported Christian CND.

She died in March 1969 and at her memorial service, tributes were paid to her by fellow Congregationalists the Rev Elsie Chamberlain and Lady Stansgate, mother of Tony Benn.

The significance of her quiet yet powerful ministry did not escape figures from the wider church, including Lord Donald Soper and Bishop Trevor Huddleston, copies of whose letters of sympathy to Claud have survived.

Ale named in honour of seminarians who were mistaken for stag party

A Welsh pub that initially turned away a group of seminarians after **mistaking them for a stag party** has named a beer in their honour.

The City Arms pub in Cardiff has rebranded “The Rev James,” a popular ale on its menu, the “Thirsty Priests”.

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“We wanted to do something as a ‘thank you’ to the priests for taking the misunderstanding in such good spirits,” said Tim Lewis, PR manager for Brains, the pub’s owners, according to Wales Online.

With the added slogan “saving souls and satisfying thirsts”, the “Thirsty Priests” was added to the taps last weekend.

Celebrating the ordination of Father Peter McClaren, the group of seminarians dressed in their cassocks were at first refused service when they entered the City Arms on July 29. “The staff thought they were a stag. We do have quite a few issues on the weekends with parties

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wearing fancy dress so it is our policy to turn them away,” said assistant manager Matt Morgan.

The manager overheard their prayers as they were leaving the bar, and invited them back for a round of beers on the house.

“By way of apology, he then very graciously provided us with a round of drinks, at which point the group decided to stay, provoking an outburst of applause from the locals casually enjoying a pint,” the seminarians said.

“Throughout the afternoon, the group continued to receive a warm welcome from the regulars but their curiosity did not cease, with many approaching us and asking us questions.” Archbishop George Stack of Cardiff, who is also a fan of City Arms Pub, said he was happy to hear about the seminarians’ interaction with the community, noting that “priests are of the community and for the community they serve.”

Trump's evangelical advisors request meeting with Pope

An American evangelical church leader has requested a meeting with Pope Francis after

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criticism in an Italian publication of the relationship between US Catholics and Trump supporting evangelicals.

The article in *La Civiltà Cattolica*, which reportedly was backed by the Vatican, speaks of an alliance of hate.

It reads: "The most dangerous prospect for this strange ecumenism is attributable to its xenophobic and Islamophobic vision that wants walls and purifying deportations.

"The word 'ecumenism' transforms into a paradox, into an 'ecumenism of hate'."

In a letter of response, seen by Premier, Rev Johnnie Moore - an advisor to President Trump says a conversation between the parties is "urgent"

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He writes: "It's in this moment of ongoing persecution, political division and global conflict that we have also witnessed efforts to divide Catholics and Evangelicals.

"We think it would be of great benefit to sit together and to discuss these things. Then, when we disagree we can do it within the context of friendship. Though, I'm sure we will find once again that we agree far more than we disagree, and we can work together with diligence on those areas of agreement."

In the run up to the election, [Pope Francis criticised President Trump's plans to build a wall on the border with Mexico labelling it un-Christian.](#)

Since taking office [Trump has since met the pontiff at the Vatican.](#)

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