



Our Diocese by numbers!

3 Cathedrals

33 Clergy

1 Sports Association
14 Charities
2 Residential Housing Communities

1616 Students
3 Second Level Schools

52 licensed or commissioned voluntary lay church workers

20 Primary Schools
1822 Students & **127** Teachers

437 voluntary children's & youth workers

13097 Members of the Church of Ireland (Census 2016)

29 Hospitals & Public Nursing Homes where pastoral care is provided

66 Church Services on an average Sunday

74 churches or chapels in 32 centres of ministry

1 Bishop

Church of Ireland
United Dioceses of
Cork, Cloyne & Ross
cork.anglican.org

Cork does it by numbers

‘People often ask us’, said Bishop Paul Colton, ‘how big is the Church of Ireland in Cork? What do you do? What do you get up to? All sorts of questions.’

In part response to these questions from outside the Church, and also in response to consultations

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within the Church of Ireland, the Bishop, Dr Paul Colton, decided recently to commission an infographic from graphic artist Jonathan Leahy Maharaj with whom the Diocese of Cork has worked closely over the years.

Jonathan was given the numbers, and he came up with the design and pictures. Some consultation in focus groups and minor adjustments followed. Piece by piece each element was rolled out on social media over a two week period in May. At the Diocesan Synod last Saturday, 8th June, the Bishop and members of the Synod formally launched it.

Bishop Colton said, “Not only does it give a snapshot of our story and of the work of the Church of Ireland in this part of the world, it can serve also as a tool for reflection on our ministry and mission here; affirming what we already do, and highlighting what else we could be doing. Each element also could be used as a focus for a cycle of daily prayer over a two week period. It should encourage us too, seeing how much such a small community of people can do and the difference they are making.”

The infographic has been published and circulated to all churches, parish halls and schools in the Diocese.

Hong Kong interreligious group meets Pope Francis

The leaders of 6 religions in Hong Kong were in Rome last week to mark the 40th anniversary of an organization dedicated to improving interreligious ties.

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Jubilarians of Achonry Diocese James McDonagh (Silver), Joseph Gavigan (30th), Martin Jennings (45th), Eugene Duffy (Ruby) and Gabriel Murphy (Silver) at Maynooth Union Day @StPatsMaynooth To these and all celebrating anniversaries, Ad Multos Annos.

Pope Francis met the “Colloquium of Six Religious Leaders of Hong Kong” briefly on the sidelines of his Wednesday General Audience. He told them: “Upon all of you I invoke joy and peace in the Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you!”

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Anglican Reverend Peter Koon represents Hong Kong's Protestant Christian community. He believes the trip will help improve the "harmonious relationship" among the city's religions.

"This is the first time our six religions in Hong Kong have the opportunity to come to visit the Holy See, and this is indeed a very special trip."

These 6 religions are Christianity, Catholicism, Islam, Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism.

Facing Hong Kong issues

Cardinal John Tong Hon, the Apostolic Administrator of Hong Kong, is accompanying the delegation on their visit to the Eternal City.

"During these 40 years, we have had an official gathering twice a year," the Cardinal said. "We also have many gatherings [to discuss] particular issues" that affect the 7.4 million people living in Hong Kong.

Kay-wai Ha, who goes by his Muslim name, Ali, said the Colloquium seeks to "spread the news of peace and harmony in Hong Kong, on a religious basis."

The group also seeks to promote peace in the city. But, as Mr. Ha pointed out, "Anything that is not agreeable with any religion, we don't go ahead."

Seeking harmony

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Sik Kuan-yun, President of the Hong Kong Buddhist Association, delved deeper into the role harmony plays in interreligious dialogue.

“As human beings, we have to rely on one another in order to survive and be well, and we have to accommodate one another so that we can thrive,” he said. “If we are in harmony in our thoughts, we won’t fight one another.”

Mr. Sik offered a helpful illustration: “We don’t have to be weavers to have clothes to wear. We don’t have to be farmers to have food to eat.”

Commonalities among differences

Confucianism, said Dr. Tong Yun-kai, brings a unique and helpful doctrine to interreligious dialogue.

“Respect differences, and seek commonalities,” he said, is the goal of the 40-year-old Colloquium. In this regard, Dr. Tong believes the group has been successful.

Churches urged to be active as four Irish cities fast track to end Aids

Saturday was Irish AIDS Day and ACET (AIDS Care Education & Training) called all churches to play their part in bringing about an end to AIDS. ACET has been providing a Christian response to HIV in Ireland for over 25 years.

This year in preparation for Irish AIDS Day, four Irish cities, alongside the Taoiseach, signed the Paris Declaration in Dublin, committing to the Fast–Track Cities initiative. This

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initiative sets ambitious targets to reduce new HIV infections, end AIDS–related deaths and eliminate barriers faced by people affected by, and living with, HIV, including **Quilts in Dingle - This exhibition was held on the 8th and 9th of June in aid of the pariah restoration fund. This is one of the many events of a cultural and practical nature that take place in the church through the year.**

stigma and discrimination. Dublin, Galway, Limerick and Cork are on the fast–track to end AIDS by 2030.

ACET Ireland is part of this initiative and says that churches and other faith communities can play an important role in making this a reality.

“By directly challenging stigma and encouraging HIV testing, churches can seek to be the transformed reality we are all looking to create,” commented ACET CEO Richard Carson. “Across our country there are people living with HIV leading our churches, leading us in worship and living faithful and

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committed lives in Christian community. It is their courageous example, often from within marginalised

The Blessing of the Boats - an interfaith gathering - which took place on Sunday 2nd June in Passage West, County Cork. This marked the opening of the Passage West Maritime Festival. It was followed by a parade, entertainment and refreshments in the PACE Centre.

contexts, which can inspire us, with God's blessing, for the way forward."

ACET's broad range of projects support those living with and affected by HIV, challenge stigma in churches and faith

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communities and work alongside multicultural and migrant–origin settings in encouraging HIV testing.

The Fast–Track Cities initiative is a global partnership between cities and districts around the world. The initiative has four core partners: the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC); the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN–Habitat); and the City of Paris.

Launched on World AIDS Day 2014, the initiative today includes more than 300 cities and districts that are committed to attain the UNAIDS 90–90–90 targets by 2020: 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART); and 90% of all HIV–diagnosed people receiving sustained ART will achieve viral suppression.

The fourth, and equally important, target is achieving Zero Stigma and Discrimination.

Mayors, politicians and other city and district officials designate their cities as Fast–Track Cities by signing the Paris Declaration, which outlines a set of commitments to achieve the initiatives objectives. Grounded in the principle of data transparency, the initiative includes a Fast–Track Cities Global Web Portal that allows cities to report on their progress against the fast–track and other targets. Visit www.fast-trackcities.org to see the progress that Fast–Track Cities are making in accelerating their local AIDS responses.

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For more information please contact Richard Carson at richard.c@acet.ie

Notre Dame opens its doors to worshipers for first time since fire

The Notre Dame Cathedral opened its doors to worshipers on Saturday, marking the first time since a devastating fire tore through its halls in April.

The diocese of Paris announced that a mass would be held on Saturday evening with only about 30 people, including clerics, worshipers and media in attendance.

Those attending the mass were required to wear hard hats for safety.

Paris Archbishop Michel Aupetit celebrated the mass, which was televised live and streamed online.

Since the fire, two months ago, only a small fraction of the multi-million pound pledges to rebuild the cathedral have been paid.

Hundreds of millions was promised toward the restoration of the cathedral's roof and spire by some of France's richest and most powerful families and companies, however, according to officials, so far they have not yet paid a penny.

Instead, it has been mainly American citizens, through the charitable foundation Friends of Notre Dame, who have footed the bills and paid salaries for up to 150 workers employed since the fire.

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This month the foundation is handing over the first payment for the cathedral's reconstruction of 3.6 million euros (£3.2m).

"The big donors haven't paid. Not a cent," said Andre Finot, senior press official at Notre Dame.

"They want to know what exactly their money is being spent on and if they agree to it before they hand it over, and not just to pay employees' salaries."

Fundraising groups say they have only had £50m of £570m officially promised.

June 17 - Today in Christian history

June 17, 1703: John Wesley, founder of Methodism, is born in Epworth, England, to parents Samuel and Susanna. Though Methodism's emphasis on grace and instantaneous (often emotional) conversion marked a radical departure from high church tradition, Wesley always considered himself an Anglican.

June 17, 1963: The U.S. Supreme Court rules 8-1 that states cannot require the recitation of the Lord's Prayer or Bible verses in public schools.

June 17 - News briefs

+++Congratulations - to The Hon. Ms. Justice Catherine McGuinness, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Irish Law Awards. An affirmation of an outstanding

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career. The 2019 Irish Law Awards celebrated its ninth year commending excellence in Irish Law.

+++Mission link visitors - Linda Abwa of CSMI is looking forward to the proposed visits of Bishop Samy of North Africa and Bishop Moses of Maridi Diocese, South Sudan. Pray for Linda and for the parishes who will host the visitors and for all the planning that needs to be put in place.

+++Derry & Raphoe youth outreach programme - 'On the Move', is getting closer and this year Rev Peter Ferguson and the team have made contact with the hotels in Stranorlar and Ballybofey to serve and bless those who work in the hospitality industry. This will be a far-reaching and very special part of the week. The Finn Valley Voice is going to feature 'On the Move 2019' both leading up to the event and during the week itself. Rev Adam Pullen is on the case and a local radio station is next on his radar.

+++Surprising the archdeacon - On Sunday 9th June, the rector of Douglas Union of Parishes, the Venerable Adrian Wilkinson, Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the diaconate. A surprise United Service had been organised in Saint Luke's Church, Douglas, Cork to celebrate this occasion, fittingly on Pentecost. The Archdeacon suspected nothing and was suitably taken aback! Following the Service, refreshments were served in the Canon Packham Hall. A presentation was made on behalf of the parish by Churchwarden Philip Doherty, to reflect the gratitude and affection with which Adrian is held. Present were many parishioners, Adrian's family and also previous curates the Rev'd Eileen Cremin and the Rev'd Sarah

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Marry. Bishop Paul and Mrs Susan Colton were also present to make this a very memorable occasion.

+++Moira in Kenya - At the end of June, a team of six from St John's Parish, Moira, will travel to Kenya to minister alongside the UDP staff team and Kayole community in delivering 'Days for Girls' training. Pray that the team will be united and their faith enriched through their visit.

+++Stormont visit by US Methodist church - William Humphries met and hosted a visit to Parliament Buildings, Stormont last week, by a Methodist Church group from Florida, USA. The group is drawn from the congregation which is ministered to by, Rev Mark Charles, former Minister of Shankill Methodist Church.

+++Food for thought - "The real test of being in the presence of God is, that you either forget about yourself altogether or see yourself as a small, dirty object." CS Lewis

June 17 News Links

[Scottish Synod debates reconciliation in anticipation of Brexit](#)

Church Times

The Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd John McDowell, of the **Church of Ireland**, said that he had intended to speak about Brexit. Since this was a Scottish ...

[NI hymn writers set to begin biggest tour yet](#)

Belfast Newsletter

... time between Northern **Ireland** and Nashville were speaking to the **News** Letter yesterday afternoon. ... "They would sing our hymns in the **church**."

[Unanswered questions' over death of Portadown pensioner, admits church minister](#)

Belfast Telegraph

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A **church** minister has acknowledged there are "unanswered questions" ... The Rev Robin Brown is minister of First Portadown Presbyterian **Church**, ...

[Abolish the Priesthood](#)

The Atlantic

Ireland was heaven to her, and the Catholic **Church** was heaven's choir. Then came the Ryan Report. Not long before The Boston Globe began ...

[Sex education in Catholic schools covers facts and values, bishops say](#)

Irish Times

Ireland's Catholic bishops have defended the manner in which sex ... Similar views were repeated by **Church of Ireland** Archbishop of Dublin Michael ...

[Republican Billy McKee had no regrets, funeral hears](#)

Irish Times

McKee's coffin was carried from the **church** in a gun carriage, with men ... "For him it was not for a new **Ireland** or an agreed **Ireland**, it was for a ...

[Funeral held for IRA founder Billy McKee in Belfast](#)

Belfast Telegraph

Draped in a flag Mr McKee's coffin was carried from the **church** in a gun ... "For him it was not for a new **Ireland** or an agreed **Ireland**, it was for a ...

[Challenging' paper gives hint of the future](#)

[Independent.ie](#)

Religious Education (RE) higher-level candidates had an opportunity to get their teeth into discussing "what is legally permitted may not be regarded ...

[Pipeworks festival opens with screening of Nosferatu](#)

Irish Times

Kaija Saariaho has curated two programmes of her own work for the occasion, the first in Dundalk Gaol, the second in St Nicholas **Church of Ireland**.

[Celebrating two centuries of worship in Arva](#)

Anglo Celt

The **Church of Ireland** in Arva will celebrate 200 years of the present building this Sunday, June 16. The current building was built in 1819 with the aid of ...

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[presbyters as ...](#)

Church Times

"A substantial number of Anglicans regard the historic commitment of the **Church of England** that all who preside at the eucharist should be ordained ...

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Review calls for Catholic **Church** safeguarding revamp

BBC News

The Catholic **Church** in Scotland needs to revamp its measures for ... learned from the organisational changes made in the Catholic **Church** of **Ireland**.

AN INVITATION

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