

January 17, 2018

CNI
CHURCH
NEWS
IRELAND



Choristers at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, with their RSCM bronze level award certificates, with Director of Music, Peter Stobart and Assistant Director, Phoebe Chow.

January 17, 2018

Methodist Church planting and renewal conversation evenings

The Methodist Church in Ireland made a commitment at Conference in June 2018 to start and renew ten communities of faith across Ireland.

Throughout January and February 2019 the church is hosting evenings in each of its new districts to bring together those who share the desire to see churches renewed and planted across Ireland.

Facilitated by Methodist Home Mission alongside the current and incoming District Superintendents these evenings will give opportunity to grapple with planting and renewal in the participants own contexts as well as to discover the resources and support available to help them move forward.

The three new District Superintendents Phillip Agnew, Andrew Dougherty and Stephen Skuce will be there as well as the existing District Superintendents. Heather Morris and representatives from the Home Mission Department will also be there to share.

If you would like to find out more about church planting or renewal or you feel God calling you into something like this then come along and hear more. The organisers would love to meet you and hear what God is doing.

Dublin, January 24, Enniskillen January 30, Cork February 13 and Belfast February 26

January 17, 2018

<https://www.plantingandrenewal.com/>

Black Santa 2018 raises £160,000

The 2018 Black Santa Sit-out on the steps of Belfast Cathedral has raised a fantastic £160,000 for local charities.

Dean Stephen Forde said he was delighted with the funds raised. “A big thank you to everyone who donated to this year’s Sit-out, whether you came by in person or sent your donation by post or made a payment online.

“Your generosity means we can help support vital work charities across Northern Ireland are doing with children, elderly people, the homeless, those who are sick or those who are living with disability.

“Some of the funds will be channelled abroad through Christian Aid to help those who live with little food and few prospects.”

The Sit-out took place between December 17 and Christmas Eve, with Dean Forde joined on the steps by a band of helpers including Canons of the Cathedral and other clergy. A highlight of this year’s Sit-out was the first ever Black Santa Bazaar held on Thursday December 20, with hundreds of people visiting to enjoy a wide range of art and craft stalls, food and refreshments.

This was Dean Forde’s first Black Santa Sit-out and he said he had thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

“The weather was kind and there were lots of memorable occasions including bus drivers, delivery drivers and taxi drivers stopping by to make their donation. There were one

January 17, 2018

or two people who handed in envelopes anonymously and we could not believe it when they were opened. One contained more than £31,000 in £20 notes and another contained £10,080.”

The money raised by Black Santa 2018 will be distributed to more than 200 charities at the annual Good Samaritans Service in Belfast Cathedral on Sunday February 3. Special guest Linda Bryans, a journalism lecturer and former UTV presenter, will hand over the cheques.

Christian Unity is not optional Pope Francis

Pope Francis has appealed to Christians across the world to pray and to work for full Christian Unity.



Speaking during his weekly General Audience, the Pope looked ahead to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity that takes place from 18 to 25 January and reminded the faithful that “Ecumenism is not something optional”.

He noted that the annual “Week of Prayer”, on the theme “Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue”, kicks off with the celebration of Vespers in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls on Friday.

“Again, this year we are called to pray so that all Christians may once again be a single family, according to God’s will ‘so that they may all be one’” he said.

January 17, 2018

Pointing out that “ecumenism is not something optional,” he said it aims “to develop a common and consistent witness that promotes true justice and support for the weakest through responses that are concrete, appropriate and effective”.

The annual “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity” is a time in which Christians are reminded of Jesus’ prayer for His disciples that “they may be one so that the world may believe” (John 17.21). It is an occasion for Christians of different denominations to come together to pray for their unity and participate in special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services.

The theme in 2019, “Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue ...” is inspired by Deuteronomy 16:18-20.

You can find resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on www.catholicbishops.ie and follow the conversation on social media using the hashtag #wpcu2019.

Wellspring one day retreat

The Church’s Ministry of Healing (CMHI) invites readers to come to a day of reflection and rest on Saturday 23rd February 2019 in St Patrick’s Church, Dalkey.

“Wellspring”, CMHI’s one day retreat, has become “a regular space for nourishment where we can come to meet God

January 17, 2018

and explore what is deepest in ourselves. Give yourself a gift at the beginning of this year.

“This is a day where you can engage with God in a very personal way and gather treasures to help you in everyday living.

“There will be time to walk outside; to participate in guided reflections; to avail of one-to-one discussion with a spiritual director; or just take time to relax and read.”

The facilitators for the day are Dr Iva Beranek and Carol Casey. Suggested donation to CMH:I is €25. Please bring your own sandwich for lunch and we will provide tea and coffee. The retreat starts at 9.30am and finishes at 4.00pm. Please note that places must be booked in advance (hello@ministryofhealing.ie).

Church Music's Living Worship seminar

The first session of Church Music Dublin's Living Worship 2019 is on Saturday 2 February.

Tristan Russcher, Director of Music at St Bartholomew's Church, Clyde Road, Dublin 4 will present a seminar on Accessible Anthems for Holy Communion. Venue: St Bartholomew's Church, Clyde Road
Time: 10 am to 12.45 pm.

Cost: €10 to include coffee. If you bring a friend CMD will admit two people for the price of one. This will be a practical session with plenty of singing.

<https://www.churchmusicdublin.org/>

January 17, 2018




Belfast Bible College

NEW
IRISH
ARTS

Music in the local church

Music in the local church course

Church musician? Church Leader? Worship leader? - The organisers, New Irish Arts and Belfast Bible College, say this course is for you and anyone you know who might be interested.

The course provides a space for reflecting on how music is used in church. It will speak into issues of relationship, communication, theology and there'll be loads of practical help for anyone trying to bring harmony and a sweet sound to music in a local church.

It starts next Tuesday - 22 January and runs for just 3 Tuesday evenings. So the advice is - apply today and don't miss out.

For full details and registration visit <https://www.belfastbiblecollege.com/music-in-the-local-church>

January 17, 2018

Clerical abuse survivor warns of 'complacency' in Irish church

Clerical abuse survivor Marie Collins has warned that “complacency” is “gaining ground” in the Irish church on child safeguarding with some Catholics arguing that the church is being targeted and “the crisis is behind us”.

In her address to members of the catholic group, ‘We Are Church Ireland’ in Dublin on Monday evening Ms Collins said, “The Church has not acted proactively only reactively” on child protection.

She stressed that any improvement in safeguarding “is not universal” and that the Church globally still has a long way to go. “You can be sure there is abuse of minors in every country where the Church has a presence as it is in every society.”

The survivor, who was abused by a Dublin priest while in hospital as a child, noted that in each country where survivors come forward for the first time and begin to speak out “the Church reaction is a mirror image of what we were hearing here in Ireland thirty years ago.”

“I spoke recently with someone from Poland where the crisis is just now breaking. There the bishops are saying it is ‘enemies of the church’ behind it, it is an ‘aggressive media with an anti-church agenda’. All very familiar and an absolutely disgraceful attitude in 2019.”

Speaking ahead of the first global gathering of bishops called by Pope Francis for 21-24 February in Rome to discuss the worldwide scandal of abuse in the Church, she hit out at the “sleeping mandarins in leadership in our

January 17, 2018

**Clerical abuse
survivor
Marie Collins**

Church” who
“seem to feel if
they turn a
blind eye it will
stay hidden
and they will
not have to
deal with it”.

While they look
away children
are being hurt,
she told the
gathering of reform minded Catholics at the Mercy
International Centre in Dublin.



In a scathing assessment of the Vatican’s curia, she said
“Clericalism is embedded in its fabric. It is inefficient, full of
cumbersome bureaucracy, jealousies between departments
which leads to lack of cooperation, those in leadership are
often chosen because of their titles or contacts rather than
their skills or expertise.”

She called for the strongest possible penalties for the
perpetrators of child abuse and for anyone in church
leadership who would protect perpetrators.

She called on Pope Francis to make a clear statement at
the February summit outlining what is the accountability
process being used by the Church to hold bishops

January 17, 2018

accountable if accused of negligence, protection of abusers or cover up.

“Who is investigating? Who are the judges? What are the penalties?” she questioned and urged the Pontiff to commit to publishing the names of those found guilty of abuse.

Other recommendations she made included a call for “a clear definition of what constitutes sexual abuse of a minor” and for the Vatican and the Church to commit to abiding by this definition in all cases. She warned that canon law’s vagueness on a definition of sexual abuse often leads to a failure to secure a guilty verdict in cases where most people would see clearly abuse has occurred.

She also recommended that the Church agree a clear definition of the term “zero tolerance” and commit to its implementation.

Ms Collins, who resigned from the Vatican’s Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors in 2017 over curial resistance to the PCPM’s recommendations, stressed that canon law on the abuse of vulnerable adults needed to be separated from the abuse of minors.

“The abuse of power leading to the sexual exploitation of young seminarians or any persons who are over 18 should not be confused with abuse of minors. The processes in dealing with the two issues should be completely separate,” she said. Report courtesy the Irish Independent.

See also -

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/church-response-to-modern-abuse-scandals-same-as-30-years-ago-1.3758063>

January 17, 2018

January 17 in Christian History

January 17, 356 (traditional date): Antony of Egypt, regarded as the founder of Christian monasticism, dies at age 105. Committed to a life of solitude and absolute poverty, he took two companions with him into the desert when he knew his death was near. They were ordered to bury him without a marker so that his body would never become an object of reverence.

January 17, 1377: Gregory XI moves the papal see from Avignon (where it had been for 72 years) back to Rome. However, when he died the next year, two men (one in Rome, the other in Avignon) both claimed to succeed him, creating "The Great Schism." (The break between eastern and western churches in 1054 is also called "The Great Schism.")

January 17, 1525: The Zurich City Council arranges a public debate on the subject of infant baptism, which Ulrich Zwingli mandated but Conrad Grebel and Felix Manz (among others) opposed on the grounds that baptism symbolizes a believer's commitment to Christ. Grebel and Manz were defeated and eventually killed for their views.

Facebook - Twitter

Click on logo at CNI Home page

www.churchnewsireland.org

January 17, 2018