



First black US woman bishop and first to succeed another woman

Diocese of Indianapolis Bishop-elect Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, left, will succeed Indianapolis' 10th bishop, Catherine Waynick, right, who, 20 years ago, became the fourth woman to lead an Episcopal

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Church diocese. This will be the first time in the Church's history that a woman has succeeded another woman in the episcopate. Baskerville-Burrows took what she called this "selfie of selfies" April 22 at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Carmel, Indiana, before a celebration of Waynick's ministry.

After a grand liturgy on April 29, Baskerville-Burrows' life will include being the 11th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis.

Baskerville-Burrows, who previously served as director of networking for the Diocese of Chicago, will make history that day when Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and more than 40 other bishops call down the Holy Spirit to ordain and consecrate her as the church's first black female diocesan bishop.

The service will take place just more than 28 years since now-retired Massachusetts Bishop Suffragan Barbara Harris, who also is African-American, became the first woman bishop in the Anglican Communion.

Baskerville-Burrows will succeed Indianapolis' 10th bishop, Catherine Waynick, who 20 years ago became the fourth woman to lead an Episcopal Church diocese. This will be the first

time in the Church's history that a woman has succeeded another woman in an episcopate.

Baskerville-Burrows is the 26th woman elected bishop in the Episcopal Church and will be the 12th female diocesan bishop, as well as the 44th African-American bishop and the 1,100th bishop overall in the Episcopal Church's history.

The bishop-elect is also an enrolled member of the Shinnecock Indian Nation, a federally recognized tribe based on Long Island in New York. Her paternal grandfather was a Shinnecock member who grew up on the tribe's reservation.

Baskerville-Burrows became a Christian as a young adult and chose to join the Episcopal Church at Trinity Church Wall Street in lower Manhattan. She was baptized there in 1989, the year after she graduated from college.

"There is probably no better thing I could be than to be serving God in this way for a good section of my family," she told ENS, struggling not to cry. "There is just nothing better. I am going to be thinking about that and their hopes and dreams and the wonder of it all."

Those folks include her uncle, Clarvis Soanes, who will join her husband, Harrison Burrows, to

bring the gifts to the altar during the April 29 service. Soanes also walked Baskerville-Burrows down the aisle at her 2003 wedding in place of her father, who died in 1991. More at - <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2017/04/28/episcopal-church-ready-to-make-history-with-jennifer-baskerville-burrows/>

Fresh leader for Knights of Malta after Pope intervenes

The Knights of Malta, an ancient Catholic chivalric order, elected a new Italian leader in Rome yesterday in an effort to end a bitter internal feud that led to the intervention of Pope Francis.

Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto was named lieutenant of the Grand Master, which means he will serve a one-year term instead of the custom in which a Grand Master holds the job for life.

The 72-year-old was chosen from 12 candidates by the order's 56-strong council in a secret ballot at its grand 14th-century Magistral Villa, with panoramic views over the Tiber river.

An expert in art and archeology, Mr Dalla Torre taught at Rome's Pontifical Urban University. He served as the order's lieutenant for an interim period after the death of Grand Master Andrew Bertie in 2008.

The Knights of Malta is a charity and a sovereign entity that runs refugee camps, disaster-relief programmes and health clinics worldwide.

Matthew Festing, a British former head of the order, resigned in January after conflict with the Holy See over this removal of his German colleague,

Albrecht von Boeselager, a senior deputy. Mr Festing defied a Vatican order to stay away from yesterday's vote.

The Pope met senior officials from the order at the Vatican on Wednesday.

Reformers, backed by the Vatican, want to overhaul the order's constitution to make it more transparent. Yesterday, the organisation said reform would be a priority for the new leader.

It said in a statement: "The recent crisis has shown some weaknesses in the checks and balances in governance: the reform will take this

into consideration. The reform will also focus on strengthening the order's spiritual life and increasing the number of its professed members."

C of I General Synod in Limerick

This year the General Synod will, for the first time be held in Limerick and will begin in the South Court Hotel on Thursday, continuing until Saturday. The business will be preceded by a celebration of the Eucharist in St Mary's cathedral at which the preacher will be the Bishop of Limerick, the Rt Revd Kenneth Kearon,

In a departure from previous practice the daily devotions will be led by a Synod Chaplain who, this year, will be the Dean of Killaloe, the Very Revd Gary Paulsen.

In addition to the consideration of the annual reports of the RCB, the Standing Committee and its various committees and commissions, the Synod will be asked to debate proposed legislation on a number of issues including clergy pensions, a requirement to keep confirmation registers, and a proposal for lay

and ecumenical canons for Christ Church cathedral, Dublin.

One new feature for this year's General Synod will be an informal session on the second day which will celebrate ministries undertaken by parishes to their local communities. This will include contributions highlighting the Rathkeale group of parishes' social cohesion project and Lisburn Cathedral's foodbank and Christians Against Poverty centre.

The General Synod's website is now live: <https://synod.ireland.anglican.org/2017/general-synod-2017> and has all the relevant documentation, Reports and information, including a summary of business done, will be posted daily during Synod. In advance, you can also access the Bills Pamphlet and explanatory memoranda: <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/Synod/2017/Bills/Bills2017.pdf>

and the List of Motions: <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/Synod/2017/Motions2017.pdf>

There will be an audio broadcast during Synod and a Twitter feed using the hashtag #coigs. This hashtag will also be used for Facebook and Instagram as well as other social media outlets.

Quaker testimonies are still valid, Irish Friends' Yearly Meeting told

Rachel Bewley-Bateman of Churchtown Meeting delivered the Public Lecture at Yearly Meeting in The High School, Dublin, on Friday 21st April 2017 on the topic 'The Way, the Truth and the Life ... what does this mean for us today?'

Her wide-ranging lecture encompassed Biblical references, consideration of the Reformation and the influence of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) since its inception as well as her own personal spiritual journey.

Rachel talked about how George Fox, the founder of Quakerism, came to realise it was possible to have a direct relationship with God. "Over time seekers became finders and the good news spread rapidly," she said.

She concluded that "Quaker testimonies are still valid and should challenge us daily – truth, integrity, peace, justice, simplicity, equality, community, the earth and environment We can call on God to guide us and give us the strength to undertake what He requires of us."

You can read the full text of Rachel's talk here
>> ['The Way, the Truth and the Life'](#)

Poetry & Music - April 26, 2017 at 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Quaker Meeting House, Pakenham Road, Monkstown, Co Dublin. Poetry and Music event with Patrick Semple, Elizabeth Petcu, flautist and Mircea Petcu, violinist (ex RTE Concert Orchestra). In aid of refugees coming to Ireland. Donations appreciated.

Quakers Dublin Monthly Meeting - May 17, 2017 at 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Quaker House, Stocking Lane. Dublin Monthly Meeting. Tea at 6.30pm in Bloomfield. Meeting starts at 7.30pm sharp.

Mothers' Union pilgrimages to mark Irish 130th anniversary

This year marks the 130th Anniversary of Mothers' Union (MU) in Ireland and to mark the occasion, All Ireland President Phyllis Grothier is making a pilgrimage round all 12 dioceses in Ireland.

On 13 May, Phyllis will be joined by the MU Worldwide President Lynne Tembey as they



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travel from Derry & Raphoe Diocese to Connor Diocese.

MU members will meet them at the footbridge in Coleraine from where they will travel to Ballycastle where the first MU branch in Ireland was formed. Members will be joined by the Mayor of Coleraine, Alderman Maura Hickey, and MU Diocesan Chaplain and Archdeacon of Connor, the Ven Dr Stephen McBride. En route to Ballycastle the pilgrims will stop for a short worship service at Ballintoy.

In Ballycastle members will be joined by the Lord Lieutenant, Joan Christie. Afternoon tea will be served in Ballycastle and this will be followed by

a prayer walk round the town. The day will end with a short worship service in the church.

To mark the anniversary, 13 trees are also to be planted – one for each diocese and one for All Ireland.

First CofE vicar to marry same-sex partner has resigned

Andrew Foreshew-Cain, the first Church of England vicar to enter into a same-sex marriage, resigning as a parish priest yesterday.

Foreshew-Cain, a member of the Church's General Synod who is vicar of St Mary with All Souls, Kilburn and St James, West Hampstead, said in a letter to his parishioners reported by **The Sunday Times** that the CofE is 'institutionally homophobic'. He spoke of his relief at leaving because he and other gay and lesbian clergy were 'barely tolerated'.

He said the Church was 'an institutionally homophobic organisation that blindly denies its policies and practices are deliberately and harmfully discriminatory and wrong'.



Andrew Foreshew-Cain (right) and his husband Stephen.

'I am looking forward to no longer feeling that a significant part of me is...rejected by the organisation that I work for and have served faithfully,' he added.

He told The Sunday Times he believed the Church was 'almost at that point where the distance between what the leaders of the church are saying and what the people believe and do is unworkable.

'The Church of England is a national church. If it wishes to become a sect and draw up its own rules and not be part of the national life, it is perfectly at liberty to do that, but it can't

continue to...claim a role in the national life if it is so at variance with the basic moral principles of the country.'

Foresheew-Cain's decision follows what was seen by many as a significant victory for Church of England liberals in February when the General Synod rejected a House of Bishops report on gay marriage that recommended the Church did not change its traditional opposition.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York subsequently called for a 'radical new Christian inclusion' in what was seen as an indication that the Church's position might be liberalised.

Pope celebrates Mass for 15,000 Catholics in Cairo

Military helicopters flew overhead and police fanned out in force yesterday as Pope Francis celebrated an open-air Mass for Egypt's tiny Catholic community, on the final day of a visit aimed at comforting Christians following a series of attacks by Islamic militants.

Despite the security concerns, Francis zoomed around the Cairo sports stadium in an open-topped golf cart before the start of Mass. The

crowd cheered him wildly, waving Egyptian and Holy See flags and swaying to hymns sung by church choirs. The defence ministry's stadium has a capacity of 25,000, but only about 15,000 people attended — a reflection that Catholics represent less than 1 percent of Egypt's 92 million people.

In his homily, Francis urged them to be good and merciful to their fellow Egyptians, saying “the only fanaticism believers can have is that of charity!”

“Any other fanaticism does not come from God and is not pleasing to him!” he said.

Yesterday, Francis demanded that Muslim leaders renounce religious fanaticism that leads to violence. Francis made the appeal during a landmark visit to Cairo's Al-Azhar, the revered, 1,000-year-old seat of Sunni Islam learning that trains clerics and scholars from around the world.

Security was exceptionally tight around the stadium and in the upscale neighborhood where Francis spent the night, with uniformed and plain-clothed police stationed every meter (yard) or so along his motorcade route. Police used metal detectors to check vehicles for explosives



Pope Francis arrives in procession to celebrate Mass at the Air Defence Stadium in Cairo . In his homily, Francis decried religious fanaticism

and armed guards stood watch, some on rooftops, their faces covered.

But Francis decided to forego the bullet-proof “popemobile” that his predecessors used on foreign trips and drove through Cairo in a simple Fiat, his window rolled down.

“He is a messenger of peace, he is really a messenger of peace,” said Amgad Eskandr before the Mass got under way at the stadium.

“All his words talk about peace, call for peace, push for peace which is great.”

His gestures sent a defiant message to the extremist Islamic State group, whose local affiliate in Egypt has vowed to target Egypt's Christians to punish them for their support of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

As defense minister, El-Sissi had led the military ouster of the Islamist Mohammed Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president whose one-year rule proved divisive.

Already, attacks against Christians in northern Sinai, the epicenter of the insurgency, have forced hundreds of families to flee the region, seeking refuge elsewhere in Egypt. Recent attacks on churches — one in Cairo in December and twin Palm Sunday attacks in cities north of the Egyptian capital — have claimed at least 75 lives and injured scores.

The attacks led to heightened security at churches nationwide and the declaration by el-Sissi of a state of emergency.

Francis strongly backed the government's crackdown on the extremists Friday, saying Egypt was uniquely placed to bring peace to the region and “vanquish all violence and terrorism.”

He also paid tribute to the victims of a December bombing at central Cairo's St. Peter's church, which is located in close proximity to the St. Mark's cathedral, the seat of the Coptic Orthodox Church. Blood on one of the church walls remains along with pictures of the victims in remembrance of the attack.

What is at stake in Egypt, home to one of the world's oldest Christian communities, is to prevent a repeat of what happened in Iraq in the years that followed the 2003 ouster of dictator Saddam Hussein, when militants of al-Qaida – the IS forerunner in Iraq – systematically targeted the country's ancient Christian minority and forced many to flee.

Pope Tawadros II, the spiritual leader of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Christians, is a close ally who has tirelessly advocated Muslim-Christian harmony. "Egyptians are united in pain and in joy," he told Francis on Friday.

The two leaders signed a document under which the Copts will recognise Catholic baptisms as valid.

After Mass on Saturday, Francis meets with Catholic priests and seminarians before returning to Rome.

News Briefs

+++ St Brigid's cathedral, Kildare - From today Monday until the end of September, St Brigid's cathedral, Kildare, will be open to visitors on a daily basis from 10–1pm and 2–5pm.

+++ Kells Pictures at the Priory - In Kells parish, Co. Kilkenny, the 'Pictures at the Priory' event will be held once again over this May bank holiday weekend, from today Monday until Wednesday. A portion of the profits will be given to Amber, the Kilkenny Women's Refuge. Artists exhibiting this year include William Grace and John Flinn. Varied paintings, craft stands and sculptures can be viewed inside and outside the Priory and there will be opportunities to win lots of great raffle prizes and bid for one of the Kevin Fennelly sculptures being exhibited.

+++ Arbor Hill & Churches' Forum - On Wednesday morning the Archbishop of Dublin will attend the annual 1916 commemoration at Arbour Hill. In the afternoon, accompanied by two ordinands from CITI, Ian Mills and Rebecca Gildea, he will participate in the Dublin Council of Churches' Church Forum Day at the Lutherhaus on Adelaide Road.

Today in Christian History, May 1

May 1, 1572: Pius V, pope from 1566, dies at age 68. A reforming pope, he ordered bishops and clergy to accept the propositions of the Council of Trent, but he also vehemently opposed the Reformation. He rarely hesitated to use the Inquisition in Italy and hastily excommunicated England's Elizabeth I (creating serious problems for English Catholics).

May 1, 1873: Missionary-explorer David Livingstone dies. Responsible for "opening up" central Africa and for popularising missions to that continent, Livingstone himself only made one convert—who later backslid. Still, he is widely considered one of Christianity's missionary heroes.

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