



## **The essential daily brief on the Irish churches**

### **Evangelisers must engage with social media**

**Christians need to be walking the streets of the digital highway looking out for those lying at the side of the road – witnessing to them in tenderness and love, the future leader of the Irish Catholic Church has said.**

Catholic Ireland Net - Archbishop Eamon Martin said the digital highway is a street teeming with people who are often hurting – men and women looking for salvation and hope.



***Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, singer/songwriter Eamon Keane and Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, Rt Rev Trevor Williams, who is a former BBC presenter***

He said that the internet provided the means with which Christians could go out to the peripheries and reach the ends of the earth.

Speaking at the annual Soul Waves Radio conference in Dublin with the Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, Dr Trevor Williams, who is a former BBC television producer, Archbishop Martin called on the church to give soul to the internet as part of its mission of evangelisation.

Speaking afterwards to [www.CatholicIreland.net](http://www.CatholicIreland.net), Archbishop Martin said that looking at social media from the perspective of Christian evangelisation, the “power of the internet as a very positive medium” could be seen.

“What Bishop Trevor and I have been emphasising today is how we can use this wonderful technology to try to get the good news of Jesus Christ out there.”

However, Dr Martin also underlined that there are dangers associated with social media and the internet as with any new medium. He expressed particular concern over the prevalence of online pornography.

“I was very interested at the weekend to see those who are campaigning for an end to human trafficking telling us that there is a direct link between the commercialisation of sexuality, the commodification of human beings and human trafficking.”...

...According to the Archbishop, people in the church very often think of the new evangelisation only in terms of face to face evangelisation.

But he said that with 1.2 billion people inhabiting the Facebook country, a majority of which never come to church, evangelisers had no option but to get out and engage with this world.

The Archbishop also announced the launch of a “digital missionary movement” to coincide with next year’s 1,400th anniversary of the death of Irish missionary St Columbanus, who founded a number of monasteries across Europe, before his death in 615.

“I am calling on committed young people who have a strong faith in Jesus and who would like to become involved in shaping such a missionary movement to make contact with me to see if we can shape up an idea.”

In his address, Bishop Trevor Williams posed questions such as how do we communicate in the digital age.

He said the internet offered users the possibility of encounter, solidarity, personalisation, ubiquity and connectivity.

“Peoples appetite for social media is huge,” he told the Soul Waves conference and noted that if Facebook were a country, it would be the third largest on the planet.

Highlighting the potential for Churches online, he cited the London Internet Church as an example of how people sitting at a laptop can be led in prayer.

Unlike other promotions, the Churches were promoting the Gospel, which was about giving, not taking. He suggested that there should be no asks, over promotion of events or pleading for volunteers.

“Social media is a must for mission”, he said though he also underlined that offline trumps online.

More at -

<http://www.catholicireland.net/church-social-media/>

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/protect-children-from-internet-says-cardinal-elect-30287167.html>

## **Methodists building on the shoulders of giants**

**In a few weeks, the Methodist Church in Ireland will hold its 245th Conference in Dublin.**

This annual event brings ministerial and lay representatives from churches all over Ireland to meet together for 4 – 5 days to discuss essential business, to elect a new President and to try to envision the way forward for the Church, a difficult thing to do in these very secular times.

The new President this year will be the Rev Peter Murray and he will be succeeding the Rev Dr Heather Morris, the first woman president of the Church. A Methodist commentator states: “Heather has done an excellent job over her presidential year in trying to make the discussions of

Conference more relevant to local churches, but she, in common with all her fellow presidents is building on what has gone before.”

Rev Edmund Mawhinney, in the Comment column of the June Methodist Newsletter, suggests that an inspection of some of the findings of past Conferences may be useful in establishing our way forward. They shouldn't be forgotten. The Methodist Church is always in a state of evolution, or if it isn't it should be, We owe it to those who have blazed the trail before us to continue their work and promote the Gospel in the most effective way to those who come after us.



***President Designate of the Methodist Church in Ireland Rev Peter Murray***



## **Killiskey Celebrates Restoration Work Which Secures Church for Future Generations**

*Archbishop Michael Jackson with members of Killiskey Parish's Roof Committee and people, contractors, and people who supported the project outside Nun's Cross Church, Killiskey.*

**The people of Killiskey Parish celebrated the restoration of the roof of their church in Nun's Cross, Ashford, with a service of dedication attended by Archbishop Michael Jackson.**

The church, which will celebrate its bi-centenary in 2017, has been undergoing renovations on a phased basis for over a decade. The latest phase involved work on the roof, guttering and down pipes to stop water leaking in.

Patricia Butler, a member of the roof committee, outlined the programme of works at the service. She said a series of challenges had been met by successive select vestries.

The cost of the work was €37,000 and Ms Butler said that there had been a wonderfully generous response from parishioners and the vestry of Killiskey parish with additional funding coming from the Department of the Environment, the RCB, the Churches Fund and private individuals. She added that the parish had received great support from Wicklow County Council's Heritage Officer, Deirdre Burns and local TD, Andrew Doyle.



Archbishop Jackson pointed out that the parish had a tremendous opportunity in the bicentenary of the church and its historical associations. He also praised the Vicar, the Revd Ken Rue for enabling people in the parish to flourish.



*Members of staff at Nun's Cross National School greeted the Archbishop. Pictured are the Revd Ken Rue, principal Rachel Harper, Archbishop Michael Jackson and teachers Lorraine Gannon and Jane Honner*

In his sermon, the Archbishop thanked parishioners for taking pride in their church which forms an important part of the community.

He spoke about the Resurrection and said: "Resurrection is who we are and resurrection is what we do". But he pointed out that every Sunday celebrates *Resurrection Now* and tells the story of who God made us to be and who he wants us to become. For this reason, he said, Sunday is special and should be treated as such.

He said that the dedication of the church prompted questions about who the church is and for whom. He asked if the church could do anything other than point us to Christ. Archbishop Jackson said that while churches were very important to people it was important not to confuse concrete with community.

## **New church hall planned for Magheragall**

**Planning permission has been granted for a new hall at Magheragall Presbyterian Church.**

Ulster Star - Work is expected to start soon and the building will replace the current church hall which was built in 1935.

The Chairman of the Lisburn City Council's Planning Committee, Councillor Uel Mackin, and Vice-Chairman, Alderman James Tinsley, met with Reverend Angus McCullough of Magheragall Presbyterian Church recently to discuss the plans.

Reverend Angus McCullough said:  
“Obviously we are delighted that planning approval has been given for the Church Hall and I hope to see work begin shortly.

“This is a lovely location and the parishioners at the Church will be served well as we can offer further activities and together be proud of this new facility. I would like to thank Lisburn City Council.”



*Alderman James Tinsley, Reverend Angus McCullough of Magheragall Presbyterian Church and Councillor Uel Mackin*

“The old Church Hall will be replaced by a fantastic new building which will be linked to Magheragall Presbyterian Church,” Councillor Mackin said.

“The current Church Hall was built in 1935 and it was felt that it was now time for a new building to take its place which will allow the Church to expand its parish activities.

“I am delighted to see this Church, steeped in history and heritage, continue to move forward with a new community facility and the Council were delighted to support this planning application.”

Alderman Tinsley too was delighted with the plans.

“The Church has been established from the mid-1700s and just celebrated its 250th Anniversary,” he said.

“I attended this Church Hall as a member of the Boys’ Brigade years ago and know the area very well.

“The new Church Hall will provide a modern building for the congregation and see the Church go from strength to strength.”

Magheragall Presbyterian Church has been established since 1846.

The first minister of Magheragall as a separate congregation was Mr Joseph Kelso.

During the ministry of Mr John Smith Brown (1829-1877) the present church was built on the site of McCollum's barn in 1840.

Mr Robert Larmour, now Minister Emeritus, was ordained and installed there in 1953. He retired in 1988.

Mr Larmour was followed in 1989 by the Rev John Honeyford and in 1999 by the Rev George McClelland, who in 2004 was appointed National Director for The Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland.

The present minister, the Rev Angus McCullough, was installed on April 8, 2005.

## **New Principal for Bandon Grammar School**

**Ian Coombes, headmaster of Kilkenny College, has been appointed as principal of the school. He will replace David Sutton who will be retiring at the end of August.**

Ian is no stranger to Bandon Grammar School having been principal there for ten years until 2010 when he was appointed headmaster of Kilkenny College.

The Chairperson of the Board of Management, Canon Paul Willoughby, commenting on the appointment said:

I am delighted at Ian's appointment. I first got to know Ian when my children were boarding pupils here at Bandon. The one thing that stands out for me was his pastoral care of my children, sometimes when problems arose. Nothing was too much trouble. Pastoral care of pupils has always been Ian's number one priority. He also has great wisdom and broad experience of education in Ireland which we will need in Bandon in the coming years. Our particular educational sector is under great pressure at present with many issues and challenges to be faced.



Ian, a native of Clonakilty, is a past pupil of Bandon Grammar School. He also taught Geography and History for 18 years. He is committed to a broad curriculum in school and along with sport, where he has a background in both playing and coaching rugby, he is also committed to the artistic side of school life. His vision for Bandon Grammar School is to keep it at the forefront of Irish and international education during his tenure.

Canon Willoughby added: We look forward to welcoming Ian, Glynnis and their family back to Bandon and to the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.



## **Promises, promises...Fundraising auction in Ballymoney**

**Saint Patrick's Parish Church, Ballymoney, is holding an auction to raise funds for the Old School House restoration project.**

This takes place on Thursday May 29 at 7.30pm.

The auction will consist of the usual sale of items as well as 'Promises' made by members of the congregation to do/provide something and an auction of 'Behind the Scenes Visits' to firms and organisations.

To date these include a 'Stress Free Dinner Party For Eight,' a four ball golf match at Ballycastle Golf Course, a weekend for two adults at a cottage in Bushmills, the use of an apartment in Portrush for the Air Show weekend and catering, hair dressing, gardening, baby sitting and beauty treatments.

Behind the scenes visits already promised include Belfast City Airport, Downtown Radio, the Grand Opera House and the Royal Mail Sorting Centre.

Admission to the auction is £2 per adult; children can attend for free and viewing will be on Wednesday May 28 from 2.00pm – 4.00pm and 6.00pm – 8.00pm.

## **Limerick's Fun Cycle for Luyengo Farm**

**The diocese of Limerick and Killaloe is holding a "fun cycle" this year in order to raise funds for their Luyengo Farm project.**



The cycle will start and end at Clonfert, and there will be two routes, one of 60 km and one of 107 km for the more enthusiastic cyclist.

The shorter Blue Route goes from Clonfert to Banagher to Taylors Cross, to Portumna, where there will be a rest stop, then on to Eyrecourt and finally back to Clonfert.

The longer Red Route starts at Clonfert, goes to Birr, Roscrea, Moneygall and then to Cloughjordan, for that all important rest stop, then on to Borrisokane, Portumna, Eyrecourt and finally Clonfert.



The cycle starts at **11:00 a.m. on June 21st, Clonfert Community Hall**

People should arrive and register from 9:30 a.m. at Clonfert Community Hall. The finish and check-in/de-register also takes place at the same Community Hall. Just to urge all our heroes along there will be a BBQ from 3:30 p.m. so hurry along for your burgers. Everyone will be welcome to join in that part of the day. Further information at -

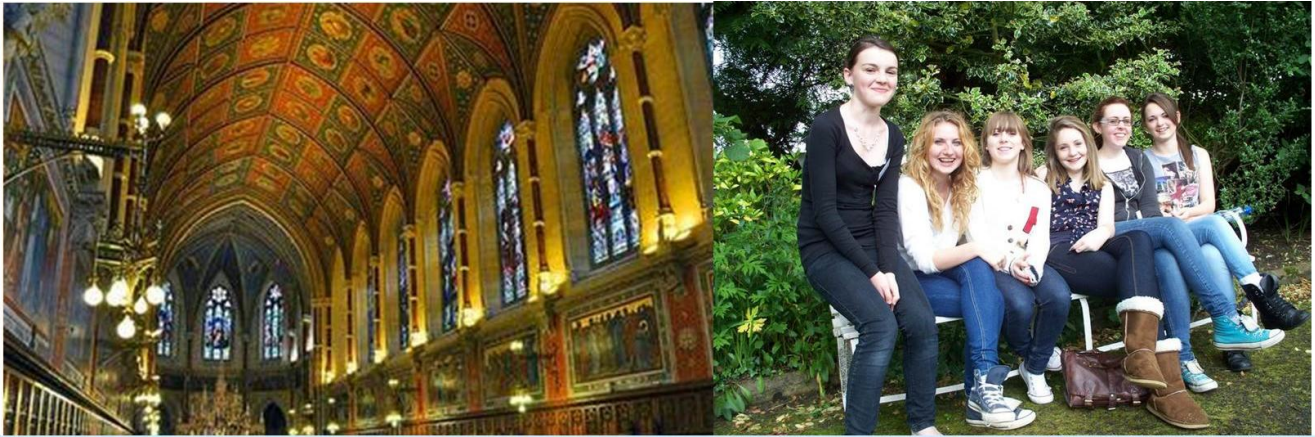
[http://limerick.anglican.org/news\\_detail.php?id=174](http://limerick.anglican.org/news_detail.php?id=174)

## **Irish Church Music Association Summer School 2014 – ‘The Joy of the Gospel’**

**The 45th Irish Church Music Association Summer School will take place in Saint Patrick’s College, Maynooth from Thursday 3 – Sunday 6 July 2014 on the theme ‘The Joy of the Gospel’.**

The Guest Director will be David Saint, Director of Music and Organist at Saint Chad’s Cathedral, Birmingham, and a Professor in Birmingham City University. The Summer School provides musicians from around the country and beyond with an opportunity to sing and pray together, learning the best music of past and present.

Commenting on this year’s theme Father Turlough Baxter, Chair of the ICMA said: “Each year the summer school focuses on a special theme and develops its liturgies, together with its music around it. This year’s focus is on ‘Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel’ – Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation on the proclamation of the Gospel in today’s world. As we launch out into a new era of the Irish Church Music Summer School, we will bring ‘a joy ever new, a joy which is shared’ through our sharing of the Word and



## **Irish Church Music Association - Cumann Ceol Eaglasta na h-Éireann**

**45th Annual Summer School 3 - 6 July 2014 on the theme: 'The Joy of the Gospel'**



singing our song. We are invited to a renewed and revitalised 45th Summer School just as Pope Francis has invited all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ.”

This year's Summer School has a new format – beginning on a Thursday and finishing on a Sunday – which will hopefully enable more people who are working to attend.

### **Summer School Tutorials**

Tutorials are taking on a new image this year and they will now be presented in the mornings and in the afternoon. They have been arranged in such a way so that each participant in the Summer School has the opportunity to attend four tutorials. Tutorials will cover:

- Parish Repertoire
- Linking School and Parish
- Liturgical Input
- Skills for Leading Liturgical Music
- Special Choir
- Psalms in the Liturgy
- Choir Skills

- Organ Tutorials
- New Generation Youth Choir

### **Summer School Brochure, Booking Form and Poster**

For information on Summer School costs and to access the official booking form, please download the brochure at - <http://www.catholicbishops.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Summer-School-Booking-Form-and-Information-Leaflet.pdf>

The Irish Church Music Association was founded in November 1969 to support the work of musicians working in the field of liturgical music in Ireland. Through training, publication and dissemination of information, the ICMA strives to improve standards and encourage musicians in their service of God and the community. The ICMA is supported by the Irish Bishops' Conference and is based in the National Centre for Liturgy, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

There is a membership of approximately 250 people. Membership is by the payment of a yearly subscription and is made up of a variety of people from choirs around the country and those interested in Church Music.

The Association has a Council which runs the association; this is governed by its constitution. The Council is elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting, with a certain number of the Council elected each year, for a term of 3 years. A small number may also be co-opted if necessary.

The objects of the Association are:

- To promote, encourage and support the understanding of music in the Church.
- To promote, encourage and support the use of music in the liturgical and daily life of the Church.
- To especially encourage and support Irish music and musicians.
- To work for the acceptance and implementation of good liturgical practices.
- To work in co-operation with the National Centre for Liturgy, in particular and with other similar bodies as appropriate.
- To be ecumenical in outlook.

For more information please see the website [www.irishchurchmusicassociation.com](http://www.irishchurchmusicassociation.com)





## **The Reverend Avril Kingston (1934 - 2014)**

**The death occurred on Sunday, 18th May, of the Reverend Avril Dawson Kingston, of Glencairn, County Waterford.**

Following her retirement from the auxiliary ministry, Avril continued to hold the Bishop's Permission to Officiate in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross,.

The Reverend Avril Kingston (born in 1934) was made deacon in 1994 and ordained priest in 1995. She served in the auxiliary ministry, mainly in the

south city parish of Douglas Union with Frankfield. This involved lots of travel, willingly undertaken, from her home on the Cork - Waterford border at the north-eastern extremity of the Diocese.

Avril also helped in other parishes when needed, including notably in the Parishes of Fermoy Union.

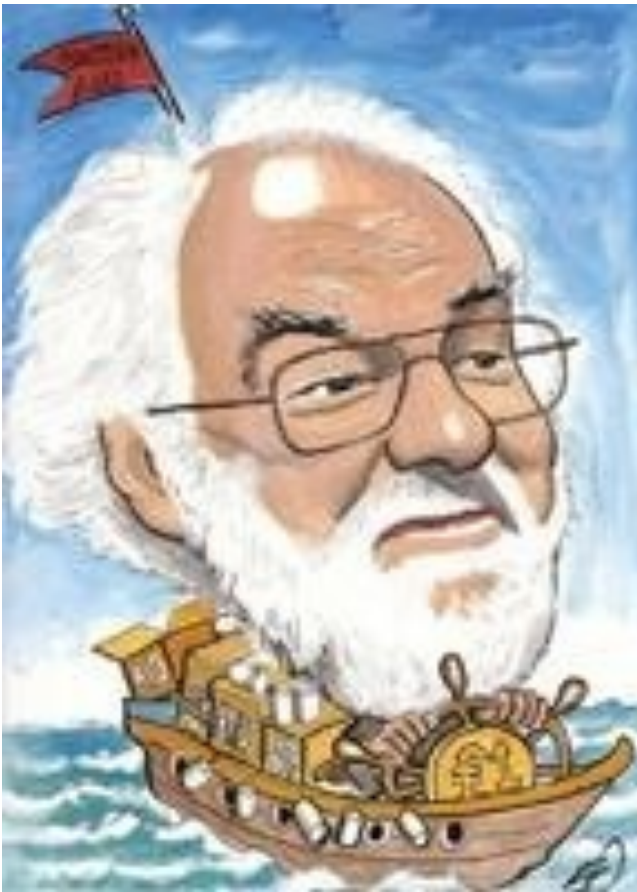
Bishop Colton, paying tribute to Avril, said:

*Avril's ministry was faithful, committed and generous. It was hugely appreciated by the people of Douglas Union with Frankfield, as well as in the other parishes where she assisted from time to time, including Fermoy Union, and in the Cathedral parish of the neighbouring Diocese of Lismore, close to her home. I give thanks personally for her prayerful and thoughtful ministry, and her unfailing gentleness and kindness to those she met.*

## **Life after Lambeth - Rowan Williams**

**The former Archbishop of Canterbury is now the chairman of Christian Aid. Rowan Williams talks to Madeleine Bunting associate editor at The Guardian about his role at the helm of the charity, how inequality of power must be fought – and why the press are good for the soul**





The Tablet - You've lived in palaces, been entertained by the Queen, had Cabinet ministers clear their diaries to meet you and always had recourse to a readily available slot on the BBC? Today programme to air any thoughts to the nation. Alongside all that prestige and soft power, you have also been subjected to some of the harshest media treatment of any public figure. Lambasted from every side, criticised by friend and foe. By any measure, Rowan Williams' tenure as Archbishop of Canterbury was a form of media trial. Selected for his huge intellect and holy humility, he struggled to bring them to bear on his attempt to explain faith to an increasingly secular national audience, and all the while his efforts seemed to be thwarted by fellow

believers seemingly obsessed with sex. After all that, what do you choose to do next? Was he tempted by a remote post in west Wales, where he could write his poetry and pray like his admired fellow countryman R.S. Thomas? I asked him last week in the House of Lords. He chuckles: "Not yet."

He was about to give the first Christian Aid parliamentary lecture at a dinner last Friday night in the Lords, doing so in his role as chairman of the aid agency he took on a year ago. We are perched at a table while waiters and waitresses clatter crockery and glasses as they prepare for the evening. But Williams is as calm and present as if in a -cloister. You could call this his secret weapon – a quality of attentiveness and presence that wins him many admirers and friends. It is what makes him suited for the role of heading up a major aid agency because he can win friends everywhere. So much of aid agency leadership is a form of diplomacy, building delicate coalitions both nationally and internationally to talk to governments.

But there is another side to heading up an aid agency, and that is public advocacy – making the case for aid; explaining what it does, how it does it and why it does it. Aid is a deeply political subject. It has long since drifted away from apolitical charity, and Christian Aid's position is unequivocally clear: its struggle to end poverty is profoundly influenced by its analysis of

power. Last week's lecture, in which he talked about the redistribution of power as crucial to tackling violence and poverty – just as vital in tackling inequality as the redistribution of wealth – was one of Williams' first stabs at laying out how he proposes to take on this territory. More at -

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/features/2/2338/life-after-lambeth->