

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



*The Incredulity of St Thomas, Caravaggio (1571 - 1610), c.1602*

## **Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise Centenary**

**Next Tuesday, one hundred years to the day when Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise (Irish Guild of the Church) held its inaugural meeting in St. Ann's Parish Hall, Dawson Street, Dublin, there will be a celebration of the Eucharist in St. Ann's Church at 6pm.**

The service will be followed by refreshments and a talk on the Irish Guild of the Church of Ireland in the Parish Hall. The Rt Revd Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory and Patron of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise will celebrate Holy Communion, using the parallel text service book, *An Chomaoineach Naofa agus Seirbhísí de chuid Eaglais na hÉireann*

which was published last year by Columba Press. He will be assisted by Canon David Gillespie Rector of St. Ann's.

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise will also be launching its commemorative programme of events to mark this significant milestone in the history of the Church of Ireland. Further details of these and other events will be available on [www.gaeleaglais.ie](http://www.gaeleaglais.ie) and [www.facebook.com/Gaeleaglais](http://www.facebook.com/Gaeleaglais)

According to its earliest minute book, which is kept in the Representative Church Body Library, the inaugural meeting of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise was held in St. Ann's Parish Hall on 29 April 2014, with the kind permission of the rector, Canon J.G.F. Day and there was a good attendance. The Bishop of Tuam was elected President, and the Bishop of Limerick, the Bishop of Cork, the Lord Chief Justice and the Dean of St. Patrick's, Charles Ovenden, were all elected as Vice Presidents. An Executive Committee was also elected comprised of Canon Day, Mr. Dix, Mrs. Dix, Ms. Dobbs, Mr. James Duncan, Mr. George Irvine, Rev Prof. Murphy, Rev James Ó Connor, Mr. G. A. Ruth, Ms. Isabella Tuckey, Rev W.E. Vendeleur, and Ms. Una Young. There were many apologies including one from Sir Roger Casement.

The four main aims of the organisation were set out. To promote all that tends to preserve within the Church of Ireland the spirit of the ancient Celtic Church and to provide a bond of union for all members of the Church of Ireland inspired with Irish ideals. To promote the use of the Irish language in the public services of the Church in Irish speaking districts and in other areas where the language may be authorized. To collect from Irish sources suitable hymns and other devotional literature. To encourage the use of Irish art and Irish music in the Church, and whatever goes to enrich its national character.  
- C of I notes Irish Times

## Resources for A Season of Invitation

**A Season of Invitation began as 'Back to Church Sunday' in 2004, which was an annual opportunity for churches across the UK and abroad to invite people to come with them to church. A new initiative moves 'Back to Church Sunday' from from one invitational service to five.**

Churches can now register on [the website](#) to take part. Once you've registered, your church will appear on our online map of participating churches and you'll be able to order packs.

The organisers state - As we prepare for a Year of Mission in 2015, let's take another look at the very simple but powerful act of invitation.

- Back to Church Sunday (September)
- Harvest (October)
- Remembrance (November)
- Christmas Starts (early December)
- Christmas (December)

Visit their [brand new website](http://seasonofinvitation.co.uk) to learn more and access a host of resources. <http://seasonofinvitation.co.uk>

## Services and events



**Today** (Saturday) The Second Cork Huguenot Day will begin at 10am in the Masonic Hall, Tuckey Street. There will be contributions from Dr David Butler, Dr Alicia St Leger, David & Ann Walls and Hazel Fleury and a visit to the Cork Huguenot burial ground.

**Tomorrow** (Sunday) the parishioners of Christ Church, Taney, will be joined by members of the Armenian Orthodox Community who use the parish facilities on Sunday afternoons. The special preacher will be Canon Patrick Thomas from Christ Church, Carmarthen, who has been involved with the Armenian community in Wales. In Co. Fermanagh the Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd John McDowell, will preach at the Clabby Annual Friends Service which will include a re-dedication of the church. St Mary Magdalene Parish Church in Donegall Pass, Belfast, is to host a Songs of Praise evening led by the 1st BB Old Boys' Silver Band beginning at 7pm, and all are welcome.

On **Tuesday** the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, will attend the Anglican–Porvoo and Diaspora Hindu in the European Research Institute in Birmingham.

On **Wednesday** the lunchtime recital in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick will be given by students from Mary Immaculate Training College who will perform works by Bach, Schubert, Schumann and Debussy.

## £20 million for World War 1 repairs to English Cathedrals

**The Church of England and Catholic Church in England have expressed their delight to be able to join with the Government in launching the application process for the cathedral repairs fund announced by the Chancellor in the March Budget.**

In the Budget the Chancellor committed £20m to be available over the next two financial years. Cathedrals are powerful symbols of our shared history, and will be natural focal points for reflection and remembrance, as the nation comes together to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

Culture Secretary Sajid Javid said: "Our cathedrals are a unique part of England's heritage and the cathedrals repair fund will ensure investment in their upkeep for the First World War centenary commemorations and beyond, ensuring they continue to play a pivotal role in our communities."

In a joint statement, the Church of England and Catholic Church in England said:

"By investing in the buildings, we will be able to showcase our cathedrals at their best, as they offer a range of events, commemorations and services to their communities. The terms of the scheme have now been finalised and applications are open."

The scheme will focus on necessary repair works to the ecclesiastical buildings of listed Anglican and Catholic cathedral



**SATURDAY**  
**24<sup>th</sup> May, 2014**

### **MESSY FIESTA**

A TRAINING EVENT FOR ALL THOSE  
ALREADY INVOLVED IN OR  
INTERESTED IN RUNNING MESSY  
CHURCH LED BY JANE LEADBETTER  
FROM THE MESSY CHURCH  
ORGANISATION

ST FACHTNA'S HALL, ROSSCARBERY  
MORE DETAILS AND BOOKING FORM FROM JUDY PETERS  
JUDITH.M.PETERS@GMAIL.COM



churches in England.

- Necessary repairs will have been identified by the architect or surveyor responsible for the cathedral, in many cases through a Quinquennial Inspection.
- The works should be needed to keep the building wind-proof, weather-tight, safe and open to the public, and done to prevent further deterioration of the fabric of the listed building.
- The reason this scheme covers only Anglican and Catholic cathedrals is that these buildings are excluded from the existing Heritage Lottery Fund Grants for Places of Worship scheme, for which all other listed places of worship, from all faith groups, are eligible to apply.

An expert panel will be appointed by the Government, in consultation with both Church organisations. It will include experts in ecclesiastical architecture, architectural history, and grants management. This panel will determine how the grants are to be allocated. The first round of applications is open now. Application is exclusively through a dedicated online application form which can be accessed from the Church of England's Church Care's cathedral grants pages: <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/cathedrals/funding-and-grants>. Detailed criteria and guidance is also available here.

The Very Revd Vivienne Faull, Dean of York and Chair of the Association of English Cathedrals, said:

"I welcome the launch of this essential scheme for cathedral repairs. We know that millions of people - of all faiths and none - enjoy visiting cathedrals each year. By helping to maintain these beautiful buildings, the Government is supporting local trade and industry, improving tourism and opportunities for growth, and recognising the enormous value cathedrals have in building and sustaining community. I am sure all cathedrals are working hard on their applications."

## Archbishop Welby blogs: 'A Christian country?'

**Archbishop Justin Welby has contributed to the current debate about whether Britain is a Christian country, saying that**



**society's laws and values “have been shaped and founded on Christianity”.**

Archbishop Justin [writes on his blog](#) : “It is a historical fact (perhaps unwelcome to some, but true) that our main systems of ethics, the way we do law and justice, the values of society, how we decide what is fair, the protection of the poor, and most of the way we look at society . . . All have been shaped by and founded on Christianity.

“Add to that the foundation of many hospitals, the system of universal schooling, the presence of chaplains in prisons, and one could go on a long time. Then there is the literature, visual art, music and culture that have formed our understandings of beauty and worth since Anglo Saxon days.”

Archbishop Justin goes on to argue that it is wrong to assume that expressing confidence in the country's Christian identity alienates those of other faiths. “The influence of a moderate and careful and generous Christian faith has enabled us to be welcoming to other faiths,” he writes.

- See more at: <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5305/archbishop-justin-blogs-a-christian-country#sthash.XXHMyZla.dpuf>

## **Battle of Clontarf - address by Bishop Eamonn Walsh, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin at ecumenical service**

**We are gathered in a multi-faith context of prayer, as people committed to fostering peace and reconciliation.**

The occasion is the millennial anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1014, in which the High King of Ireland through battle rather than descent, referred to in the Book of Armagh as the ‘Emperor of the Irish’, was victorious, despite being beheaded by the fleeing Brodar. Neither the battle nor the excruciating death of Broder, wrapping him around a tree with his own entrails, could be described as a ‘Master Class’ in conflict resolution: They were tough times, brutal warfare and not for the faint-hearted.

A huge victory at a time when our neighbour, King Ethelred of England, had fallen into the hands of the Danes. Over half of the population of Dublin at the time died in the Battle of Clontarf. Yet it was a landmark victory, securing the High Kingship of Ireland and putting the foreign invaders to flight.

What was Brian praying for when slain in prayer on Good Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1014? How does God hear prayers in war times? Was Brian's prayer answered in his death; the impaling of his 15 year old grandson; the blood soaked battle field, and crimson sea at Clontarf? How was God feeling looking on as all those 'created in his own image and likeness' butchering each other on the memorial day of his Son's crucifixion. A thousand years on, little had changed. Again a further 1000 years on, 2 World Wars; the Holocaust; the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rwanda genocide. This week we remember the 1916 children. God took a huge risk giving us free will. Yet it is the only way it can be. The paths of conflict resolution, the way of peace and reconciliation are in our hands. There will be no "dividing of the Red Sea" or "infliction of plagues" – except the ones we inflict on each other. God does not operate 'Direct Rule' – it is indirect. It is through the hearts and minds of those made in his image and likeness, all of us are tasked with being custodians and developers of this Universe, all of us as equal members of the human family. 'For you have only one Father who is God and you are all brothers and sisters' Mt 23:8. It is we who make war or peace.

This is a gathering in commitment to fostering and promoting peace and reconciliation. 1014 was long before the divisions of the Reformation. A fixing of our compass earnestly in the direction of Christian Unity is within our gift, with God's Word leading us in truth and trust with a faith that can move mountains, why not? A common mindset is the key. Never doing separately what can be done together is a helpful mantra. It is only when I look back to growing up in Celbridge in the 40s, 50s and 60s that I can see how close we are to coming back together. The journey ahead, like all long journeys, is taken a step at a time. Journeys end – 'your house or mine' is in God's hands.

This commemoration of the Battle of Clontarf nudges us to reflect on the centre of gravity of peace. In this year's message for World Day of Peace, Pope Francis highlighted fraternity as an essential human quality for peace. It is the foundation and first pathway to peace. Seeing each other as sisters and brothers of God's family, enables us to see with a 'fraternal optic'. In the Bible we are descendents of common parents. Cain, through jealousy, disregards the call to fraternity. Similar disregarding of fraternity, whether through desires for power, greed, unbridled individualism, or whatever, are still alive in 2014. To focus on fraternity, the first reading invites us 'Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob.... that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths... let us walk in the light of the Lord'. (Is 2:2-5). Cain retorted to God when asked where Abel was, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' Fraternity implies that we are 'all our

sister's and brother's keeper'. This is family language where the ill, the weakest, the stray, get more time, and no one believes it's unfair, because their needs at the time are greater.

Taking the fraternity language out into wider society does not always travel well. As it is, lost sight of inequalities develop and unspoken attitudes like 'it is good enough for them' become currency. Tags like 'loser'; 'low life', 'scum', are affixed to people.

Disdain replaces respect and fraternity. I asked a young child at Confirmation 'What gift would you like', he replied, 'Respect' because I don't respect anyone and I don't like that about myself'. He had wisdom and insight beyond his years.

Fraternity with respect, without judging people, is the framework for mind and heart of anyone on the journey towards peace.

In the reading from Roman's there is the encouraging exhortation: 'If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all' (Romans 12:18)

By extending our peripheral vision of life with a fraternity sense, grooved with respect, the pathways of peace will become more travelled.

Pope John Paul reaffirmed, 'Peace is an indivisible good. Either it is good for all or good for none'.

The brutality of the Battle of Clontarf has occasioned us with the opportunity to reflect on peaceful resolution to conflict and remembering we are sisters and brothers regardless of differences. Peace be with you.

**Amen.**

May I thank Reverend Lesley Robinson, Rector of Saint John the Baptist for inviting me as Archbishop Diarmuid Martin's representative to give the address at today's gathering in prayer.

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