

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



Armagh priest to run from ‘Bann to Boyne’ in support of Trócaire

A priest from the Archdiocese of Armagh is aiming to run more than 85 miles over four days from 6 to 9 of April to raise awareness of, and funds for, Trócaire’s Lenten campaign.

Father Gerry Campbell says he was inspired to do something special to help people in Malawi after visiting the southern African country in January.

“I was privileged to visit Malawi ahead of the Lenten campaign, which is focusing on the global water crisis, to meet some of the communities Trócaire works with and hear first-hand the problems people are facing there,” said Father Gerry who is the Trócaire Diocesan representative for the Archdiocese of Armagh.

“I met some extraordinary people during my trip – people who had very little but were still full of hope and determination. I met the little girl on this year’s

Trócaire Box – Enestina who is nine years old. Until a couple of months ago at 5am in their village in Dedza, Enestina and her mum, Eliyeta, made a one kilometre round trip every morning to fetch water for their family of six. When they got to the river there was usually a long queue. Eliyeta and Enestina returned home two hours later, laden with their precious cargo on their heads, heavy buckets of dirty water.”

Father Gerry said, “Enestina frets when she talks about collecting water. ‘I don’t like carrying water. It’s very far and it’s heavy to carry. I have neck pains,’ she told me. She started carrying water when she was six years old. It made her late for school. The time she spent getting water would have been better used to study. Her mother, Eliyeta, spent at least four hours a day fetching water which was dirty and diseased. She said they had no option. It was the only source of water they had.

“In November 2013 Trócaire installed a drinking water pump in the village that is supplying half of the community’s water needs. But there are queues for the pump and it is being over-used as there are over 1,000 people in the village. The pump has helped but has not solved all of the village’s problems.”

Father Gerry is hoping people here at home will get behind his fundraising run. “I know the four days of running will be a challenge but I feel it is the least I can do to help support the wonderful work Trócaire does on our behalf overseas. I have seen the difference this support makes with my own eyes and it’s important that I spread the message that we can all make a difference as individuals.”

To sponsor Father Gerry’s efforts or to take part in the run you can email him at gerry-campbell65@gmail.com or Peter McLoughlin at Trócaire at pmcloughlin@trocaire.ie.

Anglican Jewish Commission to meet in Dublin

The Anglican Jewish Commission of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and the Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury will meet in Dublin next week for the first time since its foundation.

The conference, which is organised between the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and Lambeth Palace, will meet from Monday March 31 until Wednesday April 2. The meetings will take place in the Taca Hall at Terenure Synagogue and will focus on the theme of ‘Memory, Community and Identity’.

The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, is the Anglican co–Chair of the Commission, shared with Acting co–Chair Rabbi Rasson Arousi, Chief Rabbi of Kiryat Ono).

The Commission’s three day visit will include a reception at Áras an Uachtaráin hosted by President Michael D Higgins. Among the invited guests will be the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd Richard Clarke; the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Diarmuid Martin; His Excellency the Most Revd Charles J Brown, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland; Rabbi Zalman Lent of the Dublin Hebrew Congregation; and Rabbi David Singer of Belfast Jewish Community.

The Commission will also be visiting the Chester Beatty Library, the Irish Jewish Museum, and Dr Jason McElligott, Keeper of Marsh’s Library will be giving an after dinner speech regarding items of interest to members of the Commission. The Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne, will host a reception for the Commission members and leaders from Dublin’s different religious communities.

The Archbishop of Canterbury’s Commission with the Chief Rabbis of Israel was established in 2006 in order to facilitate deep understanding between two historic World Faiths. The meetings have alternated between The Holy Land and England and this is the first to be held in Ireland.

When he was Bishop of Clogher, the Archbishop of Dublin, was appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to be the Anglican co–chair along with Chief Rabbi Cohen of Haifa. The Rabbis and the Members of the Anglican delegation have considerable experience in the fields of inter faith relations and dialogue. The Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, Bishop Suheil Dawani, is a member of the Commission and will be coming to Dublin and contributing to the dialogue.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbis of Israel meet on a regular basis to review the implications and opportunities afforded by the dialogue and discussion of the Commission.

The members of the Anglican Jewish Commission 2014 are: Jewish delegation – Rabbi Rasson Arousi, Chief Rabbi of Kiryat Ono and Acting co–Chair of the Anglican–Jewish Commission, Professor Rabbi Daniel Sperber, Jerusalem; Professor Avraham Steinberg, Jerusalem; Rabbi David Brodman, Jerusalem; Rabbi David Rosen, Jerusalem (a former Chief Rabbi of Ireland), and Mr Oded Wiener, Director General of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.

The Anglican delegation comprises Archbishop Michael Jackson, Dublin, Co–Chair of the Anglican–Jewish Commission, Bishop Suheil Dawani, Jerusalem; Dr Clare Amos, Geneva/UK; Dr Jane Clements, UK, the Revd Canon Dr Toby Howarth, UK, Secretary for Inter Religious Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury.



Dublin choir's sacred music in Gozo

The St Teresa's Church Choir of Dublin, Ireland, will be giving a Sacred Music Concert for Lent at St George's Basilica, Victoria, Gozo.

Gozo News - The Parish said that the choir of eleven singers – “an excellent liturgical choir and probably the best of its kind in Ireland, will be under the direction of Gráinne Gormley. It specialises in sacred polyphony from the 16th century to the present day, and in particular the works of Victoria, Palestrina and Lassus.”

St Teresa's Church is located in Dublin's south inner city. Situated in this fashionable shopping area popular with Dubliners and tourists alike, this beautiful church offers its many hundred daily visitors a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of city life.

For over two hundred years St Teresa's Church has been home to a Discalced Carmelite community, friars and brothers of a contemplative order that traces its roots back to the medieval hermits of Mount Carmel in Israel. Several public masses are celebrated daily to facilitate people's spiritual needs in the busy locality.

In 1990 the choir was founded by the present Prior, Fr Christopher Clarke and the Organist and Director of Music, Ronan McDonagh. At that time a small group of singing students was assembled with a view to providing a high quality choir to enhance the liturgy. In the intervening years it has become one of the most respected choirs in the city.

From the outset the Choir has sought to fulfil its liturgical function in the fullest way possible. The use of a broad range of vernacular hymns and psalm settings encourages the active participation of the congregation, while carefully chosen motets aid reflection and prayer.

Recognising the need to preserve the rich tradition of Catholic sacred music, the Choir has built up an extensive repertoire of Gregorian chant and polyphonic music from the Renaissance to the present day. The Choir has given two lunchtime concerts at the National Concert hall and was a prizewinner in the Choirs at Christmas competition on Lyric Fm in 1999.

This visit to Malta and Gozo is the choir's third trip abroad, having previously performed in Madrid and Avila in Spain and in St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

The Choir will be accompanied by Ronan McDonagh, Organist and Director of Music at St Teresa's Carmelite Church, Dublin.

The concert in St George's Basilica is taking place on Friday, the 4th of April, starting at 8.00pm.

Ecumenical advisor appointed

Archbishop Michael Jackson of Dublin has appointed the Revd Niall Sloane as his Ecumenical Advisor.

Commenting on the appointment the Archbishop said: 'I have great pleasure in announcing that the Revd Niall Sloane, Rector of Holy Trinity, Killiney, has agreed to be my Ecumenical Advisor. Niall has already shown himself to have a keen interest in ecumenical issues and in the relationships across churches and communities which this involves.'

‘I know that this has been a characteristic of his ministry since early days. Within the Church of Ireland and beyond he has shown himself to be abreast of current trends and concepts. He is the Assistant Secretary to the Church of Ireland’s Commission for Unity and Dialogue. He has facilitated both the recent Porvoo Consultation on the Diaconate and has worked closely with me on successive Four Nations Faith and Order Consultations.



‘Dublin and Glendalough are dioceses in which interesting things regularly happen ecumenically. As we develop a deeper sense of mission and discipleship, the ecumenical perspective and contribution to this vision will be vital. Niall’s contribution will complement the work already begun by the Revd Dr William Olhausen as Theological Advisor. I have every confidence that our partners in the Gospel of all religious traditions will share with us in this journey even more than we can yet imagine.’

The Revd Niall Sloane said he was honoured and humbled to be asked by the Archbishop to be his Ecumenical Advisor.

He said: ‘Never before has ecumenical engagement been so important to the life and mission of a healthy, mature and growing Church. I believe that this role is a formal recognition of the many active and engaged ecumenical partnerships taking place within the Church and these united dioceses. The Church of Ireland Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue is already at the forefront of ecumenical work and I would hope that this can be highlighted through this new role.

‘I am excited by the opportunities and interactions that the appointment will bring in continuing to build on the good ecumenical relationships that already exist, as we all work together to make God’s love known in the united dioceses.’

US diocese to sue Irish diocese

In a rare legal move, a Roman Catholic diocese in Minnesota is suing a diocese in Ireland, alleging it transferred a priest to Minnesota without warning that the man had been accused of sexual abuse.

CBS News - A report by Minnesota Public Radio News and KARE-TV said the Diocese of New Ulm filed the lawsuit in February against the Diocese of Clogher in Ireland and the Servants of the Paraclete religious order.

In it, the New Ulm Diocese claims it never would have accepted the Rev. Francis Xavier Markey in 1981 if it had been told about the allegations against him.

Markey was ordained in Ireland in 1952, and documents in several court cases show he was accused of sexually abusing boys as early as the 1960s. The documents also show he had gone to treatment before coming to the U.S., and also received treatment at a Paraclete facility in New Mexico.

The New Ulm Diocese said Markey arrived in Willmar in December 1981 and did some temporary parish work. He left the diocese seven months later. More at -

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-ulm-minnesota-church-diocese-sues-one-in-ireland-over-priest/>

Cork archdeacon's installation

The new Archdeacon of Cork, Coyne and Ross, the Venerable Adrian Wilkinson, will be licensed in St Fin Barres Cathedral, Cork by the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, tomorrow Sunday, 30th March at 4 p.m.

Following the licensing, and after Choral Evensong, on foot of the mandate of the Bishop, the new Archdeacon will then be installed in his stall in the Cathedral Chapter by the Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne. The Service will be attended by



clergy and representatives from all the parishes in the Diocese as well as public and civic representatives including the Lord Mayor of Cork and the Mayor of Cork County.

All are welcome to attend the Service.

Diarmaid MacCulloch in Belfast

Leading academic, author, and TV presenter Diarmaid MacCulloch will give the St George's annual lecture for 2014, "The Reformation - this stupid and pernicious tragedy?"

The lecture will be given in the church on Thursday 8 May at 7.30 pm. Minimum donation £5. Tickets available at the door, but please arrive early to ensure you get a seat.

St Christopher's Larder moves up a league with help of Belfast soccer clubs

A well known Belfast football club is supporting an east Belfast church's food initiative.



Rev Adrian McCartney of Boring Wells writes - A few weeks ago I sent a hopeful introductory email from St

Christopher's Church (at the gates of the Oval) to Glentoran Football Club. It was responded to by a number of people and within days we were drinking tea with Kevin Milhench (Grounds Director).

L-R: Adrian McCartney (Minister), Storm Charis (volunteer), Kevin Milhench (Director, Glentoran), Will Charis (Volunteer), Rob Stewart (volunteer).

It soon became apparent that not only did we have mutual friends and acquaintances but we had mutual interest in the local community around the Oval. All we needed was some joined-up thinking.

We, the Fresh Expression team in St Christopher's, have been trying to serve the local community for the last twelve months with a food bank called The Larder and by working with the Parkgate Community Association to address some local issues. Kevin and Glentoran stepped immediately into that local mix of relationships and even in the last few weeks have made a considerable impact with litter picking, tidying up mess, and connecting with residents and the local housing Association.

On Saturday 15 March it was announced that there would be a food collection for The Larder food bank at the next home game (Clintonville on 22 March). This was followed up with a great page on their website and information on Facebook and Twitter. We did the same from St Christopher's.

On Saturday 22 March Glentoran supporters filled four wheelie bins with tins and packets of food and £100 cash in the buckets. To see chaps and chapesses walking down Parkgate Drive with bags of food was just amazing. One big lump of a lad opened his coat and pulled out a tin of tuna and threw it in. As Tesco keeps telling us, "Every little helps".

On behalf of St Christopher's and those who find themselves facing food poverty could I thank you, the food givers, and Glentoran FC for facilitating the event. The ripples of encouragement and partnership have already been noticed and will continue to spread. Thank you.

Street Child World Cup kicks off in Brazil

Over the past two years, Methodist children and young people have been encouraging local churches to help raise £30,000 for the SCWC by organising fundraising events of their own.

In Bristol, young Methodists organized a fundraising event that was supported by the whole District. The Revd Ward Jones, District Chairman, volunteered to be gunked in a Cheshire cat onesie to raise money to sponsor two teams from Nicaragua - a girls' team and a boys' team - to take part in the tournament in Rio.

Tamara Wray, Methodist Youth President, said: "The Street Child World Cup really can change the lives of street children; the young people who

participated in the SCWC in Durban in 2010 are now all working and living independently because of Casa Alianza. They all speak about the motivation and inspiration that they gained from the experience. This is why we, along with our Methodist volunteers who are in Rio helping out during the event, are proud to be backing the Street Child World Cup because no child should ever have to live or work on the streets."

The charity responsible for putting together the Nicaraguan teams is Casa Alianza. Through a holistic programme of sports, art, therapy, group sessions, education and spirituality, Casa Alianza not only provides a safe haven but also a place where these street children can equip themselves for a better life.

Roseanne Levermore is a ONE programme participant for the Joint Public Issues Team. She will be one of a group of Methodists supporting Team Nicaragua in Rio today. "I am really looking forward to working with the Street Child World Cup and helping to run their 'Fringe' sessions in Rio," she said. "This is a really exciting part of the project that happens away from the football pitch in the evenings. The children and young people will be given a chance to reflect on the day, and a quiet space amongst the excitement of the tournament. My role within the fringe team is to coordinate the 'Relax' sessions. These involve yoga, art therapy, sign language to music, hair braiding, sewing, cooking, and practical classes including computer skills to name but a few."

Following the Street Child World Cup, the Methodist Church in Britain will continue to support the work of Casa Alianza in Nicaragua. Youth President Tamara Wray will take part in a 10 kilometre charity run on 1 June. (You can support Tamara here). "As people, we always look for the happy ending as this provides us with comfort," added Tamara. "The Street Child World Cup is not the happy ending: it's the beginning. So please support the SCWC and Casa Alianza in the fantastic work that they are doing."