



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

Good news stories from Belfast - Sunday night on the Nomadic



Just how many good news

stories are crammed into this one picture? The starting point for the Giro D'Italia, home for thousands of residents and students, the unique skyline of the gleaming Samson and Goliath cranes – and of course the world's [best/only honesty box cafe](#) at the heart of it all.

Chris Bennett, Chaplain at The Dock writes - And if the panorama stretched further, Titanic Belfast and the SS Nomadic would hove into view. Belfast history, tourism, industry, education, commerce, church, and community – all visible from one spot.

It's a great time for our great city – **and so this Sunday night at our monthly service on SS Nomadic (6.00 pm), the theme is 'good news stories for Belfast'**. We'll be hearing stories from last year's World Police and Fire Games, the opening of Titanic Belfast, the G8, the tall ships, and loads more – as well as getting ready for more colour and life in the upcoming Giro D'Italia.

Although we'll be coming prepared with some good news stories, there'll also be an open mic for anyone who wants to share any more great stories from the city. They can be big international events or small individual encounters – as long as they're good news!

I think we too easily believe the worst in Northern Ireland. When a fantastic, positive event (the WPFG springs to mind) seems to move us a step forward, it's too easy for some bad news to knock us two steps back. We need to tell, and keep retelling, the true, important, honest-to-goodness good news stories if that's the future we want to build.

RTE Sunday Service 4 May features music from forthcoming C of I Hymnal Supplement

The RTE broadcast service this coming Sunday, 4 May 2014, will feature examples of new music from the forthcoming Church of Ireland Hymnal Supplement.

The service will take the form of a Eucharist and will be led by the Revd Dr Peter Thompson (pictured right), Rector of Donaghmore, who has been highly involved in the development of the new supplement by the Church's Liturgical Advisory Committee. He will be joined in the service from the RTE studios by musicians from his parish.

The service will be broadcast at 11.10am on RTE One TV and at 11.45am on RTE Radio 1extra / LW252 / and on digital platforms. It will also be available following the broadcast on the RTE Player for a period of time.

Craigyhill parishioners in the pink for Giro 'Italia

Messy Church at All Saints' Parish, Craigyhill, will be even more exciting than usual as Messy Church goes pink in honour of the Giro d'Italia.

Not only will everyone be encouraged to wear pink – yes, gentlemen too – but people are being encouraged to arrive by bicycle!

The fun gets underway on Sunday May 4 at 11.30am and as well as thinking about the Giro which will visit Larne, Messy Church will also delve into the CMS Ireland 'Wheels Appeal,' which looks at how important bicycles are in other countries.

Activities during Messy church will include:

Pink iced sharing cookies
CMSI picture competition
Hoopla and hoop rolling

‘Wheels Appeal’ DVD

The usual fun, songs and refreshments.

So roll up for what should be a wheelie exciting morning!

C of I Clergy Golf Team Scoops "Principal"s Jug"

The annual golf match between the clergy of the Church of England and the Church of Ireland, entitled the Principal's Jug, took place on Wednesday 30 April, in Powerscourt Golf Club, Enniskerry.



The hotly contested two round tournament features a foursomes match play in the morning and a singles matchplay in the afternoon.

The teams are pictured outside the clubhouse at Powerscourt Golf Club with their captains, Archdeacon Ricky Rountree (Church of Ireland) and Archdeacon Paul Taylor (Church of England).

The Church of Ireland team won this year by 11 to seven. The day concluded with a presentation dinner in the golf club.

The event has been taking place annually since 2001 and the venue alternates between England and Ireland. It was sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance.

On Earth as it is in Heaven

'On Earth as it is in Heaven' is the theme of an exhibition of words and images on The meaning of Linen in the Bible which will be launched at Christ Church Cathedral on 6th May and will continue until 31 May.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Good Shepherd Sunday)

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is celebrated on Sunday 11 May this year, the Fourth Sunday of Easter. The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is also known as Vocations Sunday or Good Shepherd Sunday and will be celebrated this year on the theme 'Vocations: Witness to the Truth'.

In his message for Vocations Sunday Pope Francis says: "A vocation is a fruit that ripens in a well cultivated field of mutual love that becomes mutual service, in the context of an authentic ecclesial life. No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love. Did not Jesus say: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35)?"

Click [here](#) for the full text of Pope Francis' message for Vocations Sunday 2014.

Broadcast of Mass for Vocations Sunday 2014

On Earth as it is in Heaven

An exhibition of words and images on
The meaning of Linen in the Bible

Christ Church Cathedral Dublin
6 - 31 May 2014



LAUNCH AT 6.45pm ON TUESDAY 6 MAY 2014
FOLLOWING EVENSONG

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

Curated by Margaret Barker and Bruce Clark

www.templestudiesgroup.com

Mass for Vocations Sunday will be broadcast by RTÉ One Television on Sunday 11 May. Bishop Donal McKeown will be the celebrant and will preach the homily. The Mass is being coordinated by Sister Moira Bergin from the National Centre for Liturgy in Maynooth.

More at - <http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2014/05/01/vocations-sunday-2014/>

Day of Prayer For our Land

A day of prayer organised by Divine Healing Ministries on the theme Moving Forward Together will be held in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast on Saturday 17th May from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Officiants

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| 10.30 am | Brother David Jardine, Divine Healing Ministries |
| 11.00 am | Alain Emerson, Leader of 24/7 prayer, Ireland |
| 11.30 am | Canon Norman Jardine, St. Jude's Parish Church, Belfast |
| 12 noon | Margaret Clarke, Transformations Ireland |
| 12.30 pm | Rev. Charles McMullan, West Church Presbyterian Church, Bangor |
| 1.00 pm | Valerie Murray, Divine Healing Ministries |
| 1.30 pm | Rev. Oliver Crilly PP, Parish of Tamlaght O'Crilly, Clady, Portglenone |
| 2.00 pm | Rev. Ciarán Dallat, St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast |
| 2.30 pm | David O'Connor, Koinonia John the Baptist |
| 3.00 pm | Rev. James Burnett, Lowe Memorial Presbyterian Church, Belfast |

Music led by Paul and Beulah Shields and Deo Solo

Refreshments will be available throughout the day in the Cathedral Hall

All are welcome. Come when you can, leave when you wish.

Faith Communities and Transitional Justice

On the Belfast Campus of the University of Ulster Wednesday 28 May 2014, 2pm – 5pm

Speakers:

Prof Cath Collins, Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster

Dr David Tombs, Trinity College Dublin
Fr Tim Bartlett, Catholic Church
Reverend Dr Lesley Carroll, Minister, Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Venue: 82D23, Boardroom, Belfast Campus of the University of Ulster
(Lunch at 1pm Ground Floor, beside Academy Restaurant)
RSVP: Elaine McCoubrey – e.mccoubrey@ulster.ac.uk



Cathedral Garden Festival

Christ Church Cathedral Dublin has announced its first ever flower and garden festival.

From Friday 13th until Sunday 15th June 2014, Christ Church Cathedral will be transformed into a stunning floral arcadia with contemporary and classic arrangements designed by some of Ireland's most talented and award-winning floral artists. Inside, a spectacular array of floral displays will fill the medieval building with colour. What could be more stunning than to witness thousands of flowers displayed in one of the finest cathedrals in Ireland.

Visitors will receive gardening advice from renowned and much loved personalities from the world of gardening and horticulture. Outside, adorning the grounds will be horticultural displays, Irish food produce, urban gardens, birds of prey, unusual animals, craft demonstrations, live entertainment and an outdoor artisan food tent full of gourmet food including afternoon tea. With something for everyone and fun for all the family, don't miss this unique event right in the heart of the city!

Open Friday 13 and Saturday 14 from 9am until 9pm and Sunday 15 from 12.30pm to 7pm. Admission €12 / €10 concession, children under 12 go free. Early Bird: €10 (offer ends 6th June). For groups of 10 or more, please call the office on 01 677 8099. For further information please visit our [website](#) or

Derry Youth Pilgrimage to Lough Derg

Bishop Donal McKeown will lead a Three Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg for Young People from across the Diocese.

The Pilgrimage will take place from Saturday 28th June to Monday 30th June and is suitable for 16-30 year olds.

For further information, please contact Yvonne Rooney on 028 7126 4087 or email at yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org

Dublin And Glendalough Mothers' Union Launch New Website



Mothers' Union in Dublin and Glendalough has launched its new look website.

Karen Nelson, Sandra Knaggs, Joy Gordon, Olive Good and Jean Thompson launching the new Dublin and Glendalough Mothers' Union Website

The brightly redesigned site was officially launched at Spring Council which took place in The Mageough, Rathmines on 1 May. The address is www.dublin.mothersunion.ie and the site is full of information for people who are new to Mothers' Union and members alike.

The new website, which was redesigned with funding from the Mums in May campaign, details the activities of Mothers' Union in Dublin and Glendalough. It has patterns for the various outreach knitting and sewing projects members are involved in and details of how members can help with projects. Books and resources from the diocesan Mothers' Union shop can also be bought online through the site. There are links to other pages such as the Mary Sumner House site.

Launching the site, Marketing Coordinator, Karen Nelson, to Olive Good and Jean Denner for their help. 'The seed was planted last year and a lot of hard work is now coming to fruition,' she said. She urged members to use the site and spread the word about it, give feedback on it and send information on branch events to be included on the site as well as photos.

Diocesan President, Joy Gordon, paid tribute to Karen and her team and stressed the importance of having a good website. 'The website is the window to us. It is how people get to know about Mothers' Union so it will be a wonderful resource,' she commented.

Traditional values are secret of our success, say Scouts as membership soars

Ditching traditional values to be 'cool' would be like cringeworthy 'Dad dancing', says Scouts chief as membership tops 550,000



Daily Telegraph - Holding on to traditional values – including keeping God in its promise – has helped the Scouts see a dramatic increase in members, the organisation's chief commissioner has insisted.

New figures show that the number of Scouts in the UK has jumped by almost a quarter in the last decade and membership is now at its highest level for a generation.

Wayne Bulpitt, the chief commissioner, said part of the secret of the organisation's success was the fact that young people still crave "adventure" in an era of health and safety rules.

But he added that a crucial ingredient had been deliberate decision to modernise its image but preserving the principles it has taught for more than a century.

He said organisations which tried too hard to be “cool” often ended up “Dad dancing” – conjuring up the image of a middle-aged man who embarrasses his children with awkward dance moves at a family wedding in an attempt to pretend he is younger than he is.

The most recent Scout “census” shows that the number of members in the UK passed 550,000 last year. It has grown by almost a quarter – or more than 100,000 – in the last decade.

More at - <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10802143/Traditional-values-are-secret-of-our-success-say-Scouts-as-membership-soars.html>

Ecumenical delegation visits South Sudan amidst conflict

A high-level ecumenical delegation representing church organizations arrived in Juba, South Sudan, yesterday, Friday, 2 May, amidst continuing conflict in the country with an imminent threat of widespread hunger and malnutrition among its people.

The delegation will meet with church leaders and government officials, urging immediate actions for peace and reconciliation.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, the ACT Alliance general secretary John Nduna, the WCC Central Committee moderator Dr Agnes Abuom, general secretary of the World YWCA Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, the WCC’s former general secretary Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia, general secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches Rev. Dr Andre Karamaga and WCC programme executive for advocacy for Africa Dr Nigussu Legesse will be among the delegates.

The delegates, while in Juba, will accompany churches in advocating for a cease-fire, asking parties in conflict to come back to peace negotiations, allowing humanitarian access in fighting areas and encouraging governments to pledge more aid.

“The crisis in South Sudan has unfortunately not been solved,” said WCC general secretary Tveit. “The current crisis has a potential for escalation with a risk of famine and hunger involving a large number of refugees and people displaced by the conflict,” he said.

“At this time it is important to have progress in the political process to re-establish cooperation among parties, so that the safety of people caught in fighting can be ensured.”

“The ecumenical movement has long supported initiatives for peace in South Sudan as well as the establishment of the state of South Sudan,” Tveit said.

He went on to say that churches and political leaders must amplify the voices of people longing for justice and peace. “We express our support to them when they seek a way towards reconciliation, and a focus on rebuilding their nation and feeding their people,” he added.

“We want the churches in South Sudan to know that they are not alone,” said Abuom, the WCC Central Committee moderator.

“Through this pastoral visit on behalf of the global Christian community, we want to express our solidarity with the churches in South Sudan. While we pray with them for peace in their country, we also want to hear from them how we can support them in disseminating the message of stopping hostilities and seeking solutions for peace,” said Abuom.

The urgency for peace in South Sudan has been expressed by the WCC on several occasions, including in a recent Minute adopted by the WCC Central Committee. The Minute calls for “immediate cessation of hostilities”, asking “all warring parties to respect, honour and implement in good faith the cease-fire agreement”.

The WCC general secretary expressed his concerns over violence in the country in a [letter](#) to South Sudanese president Salva Kiir Mayardit, whom he met in April 2013.

The ACT Alliance members in South Sudan are supporting life-saving relief operations. Since December, work has focused on distributing water, sanitation and hygiene kits, drilling boreholes, distributing relief goods, supporting mobile health clinics, offering psychosocial care and carrying out peace-building work in some camps.

However, the prospect of heavy rains will soon hamper operations, the ACT general secretary John Nduna warned. “In a month or so, some areas will be water-logged and muddy, preventing relief vehicles getting access to remote areas. We now have a small window of opportunity to get more relief goods in before the weather turns.”

“With over a million people forced from their homes and heavy fighting continuing, this dire situation will only worsen. This is an extremely serious situation. You wouldn’t have thought it could have taken a turn for the worse, but it has. We urgently need funds to carry out our life-saving work.”

The ACT general secretary has called on its members and the international community to keep up the pressure on the parties to the conflict in order to bring an immediate stop to killings and violence in South Sudan.

The United Nations humanitarian coordination agency, UNOCHA, said in a situation report on 25 April that as many as 4.9 million people need humanitarian assistance.



Uganda: Construction of Martyrs shrine to begin

Church of Uganda Archbishop Stanley Ntagali on Tuesday launched a fundraising drive for the construction of the Anglican Martyrs shrine at Namugongo.

Ntagali announced the fundraising drive during at a news conference at the Church of Uganda headquarters in Kampala.

Flanked by the former Archbishop, Livingstone Mpalanyi Nkoyooyo, Ntagali also said a three storeyed guest house will be constructed at the shrine to offer accommodation facilities to tourists and pilgrims.

Read the full article at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/652136-construction-of-anglican-martyrs-shrines-to-begin.html>

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