



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

Passion for Life Coleraine

Former Sky News presenter Dave Blevins and renowned local artist Ross Wilson will be among the guests being interviewed during Passion for Life, a week of mission at St Patrick's Parish, Coleraine.

St Patrick's will be the hub of this far reaching mission which involves 12 local churches.



Running during the week before Holy Week, from Sunday April 6 until Sunday April 13, Passion for Life will bring the Christian message to literally thousands of people in an engaging way, with celebrities and members of the local community stepping up to talk about what God has done in their lives.

There will be music, arts, food, a youth programme, and much, much more. Keynote speaker is Pete Woodcock from the Cornerstone Church, Kingston, London. The rector of St Patrick's, the Rev Roger Cooke, said: "Pete is a fantastic communicator with a great story to tell and he will be speaking from John's Gospel every evening throughout the week."

The events will all be based around St Patrick's Church, with the former XtraVision premises nearby being converted to a pop-up café cum arts gallery cum after hours music venue.

"The format of each get-together is going to be very informal and relaxed," Roger said. "After the initial welcome, one of our guest musicians will perform a couple of songs before we interview a member of the community or a local celebrity about the different their faith makes in everyday life."

The Week opens on Sunday 6 with a VIP guest interview. On the Monday Dave Blevins finds himself on the receiving end of the questions for a change. Over the years the former Sky News presenter has interviewed world leaders like Tony Blair and Bill Clinton and has covered events including 9/11 and the Omagh bombing.

The following evening Dickie and Janice Barr, founders of Love4Live and parents of Charlene, share their experiences of love and loss within the family.

On Wednesday artist Ross Wilson will tell how God has journeyed with him from growing up on a Belfast council estate at the height of the troubles to becoming an artist with an international reputation working cross community with local paramilitaries.

Passion for Life is a UK-wide venture encouraging local churches to work together to reach out to their surrounding communities within the Gospel. In Coleraine it involves 12 churches along with Exodus and Scripture Union. You can download a full programme for Passion for Life [here](#).

<http://connordiocese.org.uk/cmsfiles/pdf/2014/P4L-A4-Print.pdf>

TCD - Trinity Monday Service

The annual ecumenical Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving to mark Trinity Monday will be held in Trinity College Chapel today Monday 7 April at 10.30am.

The guest preacher will be the Revd Dr Heather Morris, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland. The service will follow the announcement of the new TCD Scholars and Fellows.

Rwandan-born Killyleagh church minister to mark 20 years since genocide

The minister of a Northern Irish church who lost much of his family in Rwanda's 1994 genocide is to speak at a service marking 20 years since the atrocities.

News Letter - Jerome Munyangaju will be among those attending the remembrance service at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, at 7.30pm today - Monday.

The service is open to all.

He had left strife-ridden, soon-to-be independent African country in 1960 when he was just a child, and he went on to become active in the church just across the border in Tanzania.

He moved to England to do a theology course in 1993, before the full-scale slaughter broke out on April 7 the following year.



“I was watching the news all the time, and was very anxious about it,” he said. “We kept in touch with people, hearing reports of friends and family, wondering whether they were safe or not.”

Asked if he had lost relatives or friends, he said: “Oh yes. My close family were killed in Rwanda.”

He added: “It was really clear it was because of neighbours... killing them with machetes, and others with the different instruments and all sorts as well.”

He said there were also militiamen who had ammunition.

“In the end I had to travel there specifically to look for my sister, initially. She was unaccounted for, and even today we have not buried her remains. And the children, and others. All of them.”

Many of his other relatives were lost too, as well as those of his wife - but even this huge death-toll represents “but a few” of what he called an “endless” list.

All told, perhaps as many as a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in months-long spree of sectarian blood-letting, carried out by Hutu fanatics.

It came against a backdrop of deep, decades-old sectarianism in the former colony.

Rev Munyangaju came to Northern Ireland in 1995, and is currently Rector of Killyleagh church.

Asked if he could see any parallels between Rwanda and Northern Ireland, he said: "The scale cannot be compared, but attitudes can. Because at the end of the day, you can't compare anything with Rwanda. There were 10,000 people killed every day in three months." More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/life/churches/rwandan-born-killyleagh-church-minister-to-mark-20-years-since-genocide-1-5983467>

Town church's support for chosen hue

An historic town centre location was the focal point of Carrickfergus Borough Council's support for World Autism Awareness Day (April 2).

Carrickfergus Times - The clock tower at St Nicholas' Church of Ireland was bathed in the chosen hue as part of the charity's 'Light it Up Blue' campaign.

All 26 local authorities throughout Northern Ireland as well as the Assembly are backing the initiative which involves landmarks throughout the United Kingdom and the rest of the world.

Famous buildings featured include Trafalgar Square, Sydney Opera House, the Empire State Building, the Pyramids and the Tokyo Tower in Japan.

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them.



It is a spectrum condition, which means that while all people with autism share certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways. There are over 20,000 people diagnosed with autism within Northern Ireland.

Arlene Cassidy, the charity's Northern Ireland chief executive, said: "We are very grateful that Carrickfergus Borough Council has chosen to support World Autism Awareness Day. It is vital that awareness is raised throughout Northern Ireland in relation to autism, especially within the local community as there is still a lot of misunderstanding and ignorance in relation to autism spectrum disorder. More at -

<http://www.carrickfergustimes.co.uk/news/local-news/town-church-s-support-for-chosen-hue-1-5973368>

C of I Sexuality debate - Love is the greatest endeavour

Padraig o Tuama's website and the text of the talk called 'Love the great endeavour' he gave last Saturday 29th March in Dublin at the Church of Ireland diocesan (Connor, Kilmore and Cashel) tripartite 'listening event' on sexuality can be found at -

<http://www.padraigotuama.com/blog/loveisthegreatendeavour>

AGM of ICC

The 91st Annual Meeting of the Irish Council of Churches will take place on Thursday April 10 in Arklow Presbyterian Church, Arklow, County Wicklow, from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm.

The theme of this years meeting will be the *Theology of the Remnant* and the speakers will be Prof Frances Young, Professor Emeritus of Theology at the University of Birmingham and the Revd Dr Heather Morris, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

At 11.30 am there will be a service of worship where the Revd Dr Donald Watts will be installed as the new ICC President. The Rt Rev John McDowell is to serve as vice-president and president-designate.

Institution - Athy

On Friday April 11 Archbishop Michael Jackson will institute the Revd Olive Donohoe as the new Rector of the Athy Union of Parishes in St Michael's Church, Athy, at 8.00 pm.

Ms Donohoe, who was ordained in 1995, has most recently been part-time stipendiary priest-in-charge of the Stradbally Union of Parishes in the Diocese of Leighlin.

Spring hour change at Dock Cafe

At last, the Dock Cafe stops being a cosy place to watch the rain on the windows – and becomes an airy space to bask in the sunshine!

With the longer evenings comes extended opening hours – so from 7 April you can enjoy marvellous mornings, amazing afternoons and easy-living early evenings in the best coffee spot on the planet:



Opening Hours - Monday – Friday 7.00 am – 11.00 pm. Saturday 11.00 am – 5.00 pm

The Dock Cafe is located on the ground floor of the ARC, at 2k Queen's Road, on the corner nearest SS Nomadic. There are plenty of car park spaces nearby. The Dock Cafe is in Belfast's Titanic quarter and is part of an inter-church initiative headed by the Diocese of Down.

Media review

Welfare reform debate is real politics

News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/welfare-reform-debate-is-real-politics-1-5978875>

Stormont Executive is incapable of making tough financial decisions

Liam Clarke in Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/debateni/blogs/liam-clarke/stormont-executive-is-incapable-of-making-tough-financial-decisions-30146391.html>

OTR Inquiry

News Letter - Government asked for terror suspects' release

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/otr-inquiry-government-asked-for-terror-suspects-release-1-5976355>

BBC News - Officer criticises Downing Street. A retired senior police officer accuses Downing Street of attempting to pervert the course of justice by asking for the release of republican suspects in March 2007.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-26849018>

Poor Protestant boys underachieving

BBC NiNews - Poorer Protestant boys in Northern Ireland are seriously underachieving at school a new report says.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-26855040>

Irish Times - Why are Catholic schools doing better than Protestant ones?

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/why-are-catholic-schools-doing-better-than-protestant-ones-1.1747681>

Teachers in limbo on cyber bullying

Cyber bullying among children in Ireland is a growing problem and teachers are not sure how to deal with it, a new survey suggests.

Read more:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-26864342>

NI: Third bid to redefine marriage

The Christian Institute

<http://www.christian.org.uk/news/ni-third-bid-to-redefine-marriage/?>

[utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+christianinstitute+\(The+Christian+Institute\)](http://www.christian.org.uk/news/ni-third-bid-to-redefine-marriage/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+christianinstitute+(The+Christian+Institute))

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Orange Order demands meeting over US guns

UTV News - The Orange Order has demanded a meeting with the American Consulate in Belfast over its claims that the majority of weapons used to murder its members during the Troubles were from the US.

<http://www.u.tv/news/OO-demands-meeting-over-US-guns/7ded5c72-8e77-4ef9-9de5-730111c2af02>

Bethany Home memorial unveiled

Irish Examiner

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/bethany-home-memorial-unveiled-264097.html>