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NEWS
IRELAND

Death of nun honoured for peace and reconciliation in Larne



Pictured at the Tuesday Group's 20th anniversary celebration at Drumalis are Rev Lena Cockcroft, Sister

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Catherine, Archdeacon Stephen Fforde, Sister Olcan, Scott and Brian Cockfrort.

Tributes have been paid to Cross and Passion nun Sister Olcan who passed away on Tuesday April 2.

Sr. Olcan, who was originally from Loughgiel, was one of the founders of the cross-community Tuesday Group at Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre in Larne.



Some founder members of the Tuesday Group are, Sister Olcan (left), Robert Alexander and Sister Catherine

She was awarded the BEM (British Empire Medal) for services to peace and reconciliation by the Queen in June 2017.

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The Tuesday Group, an inter-denominational group of local clergy and lay members, set up after the IRA ceasefire in 1994 and over the last quarter of a century has worked to bring people of all faiths and backgrounds together to help create a more inclusive and peaceful society.

Rev. Dr. Colin McClure, minister of First Larne Presbyterian Church, said: “Sr. Olcan was a quiet pioneer in developing relationships among Christians in the town and surrounding areas and led by her, her quiet powerful example at a time when it would have been difficult, she was working away just developing friendships and relationships with people.”

Sister Olcan was also honorary president of Larne YMCA.

Joy Montgomery, general secretary, Larne YMCA, said: “It was sad to hear of her death. Sr. Olcan was someone who contributed so much to community relations in the Larne area.”

YMCA board member Robert Alexander, who was also a founder member of the Tuesday Group, commented: “Sr. Olcan was a great friend. She was a wonderful example of true Christianity.

Parish Christmas Tree Festival cheque for NI Children's Hospice

The United Parish of Ballynure & Ballyeaston (Ballyclare) this week presented a cheque for £1,432.41 to the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice.

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Pictured handing over the cheque at Christ Church, Ballynure, on April 2 are, from left: Jeannie Lynd, Dianne Hamilton (Parish Family Associate), Errol Lynd, Catherine O'Hara (Northern Ireland Hospice), and Jacqui and Billy Wells.

The money was raised as a result of the generous giving of visitors to the United Parish's 2018 Christmas Tree Festival.

Receiving the cheque was Catherine O'Hara, Northern Ireland Fundraising Co-ordinator with the Hospice.

Catherine said: "I am continually amazed by the generosity of people, and their creative ways to raise money. This gift will provide essential care for the many young patients, and their families, as they are supported in illness."

Rector of Ballynure & Ballyeaston, the Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth, said: "It is always our aim as a church family to be

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generous with the resources and gifts which God faithfully provides. We recognise his goodness and love towards us, and therefore we always ensure that whatever we receive is given back for his mission in our community.

“We all will be aware of families where illness has occurred, and so in some small way we pray that this small gift will be a blessing.”

Complaint process begins into Bishop of Chester over response to sex abuse

A formal complaint of serious misconduct could be made against a Church of England bishop over his response to a case of child sex abuse involving a vicar.

The Church's interim safeguarding director has begun a complaint process against Dr Peter Forster under the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM).

Such procedures can usually only be filed within twelve-months of alleged misconduct but it is understood Sir Roger Singleton is seeking an exception. The complaint has not yet been lodged.

The complaint would focus on Dr Peter's response to a letter sent to him in 2009 by Warrington vicar Charles Gordon Dickenson who, in the note, confessed to child abuse.

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Despite the admission, Mr Dickenson was permitted to stay on as a retired clergy member and hold services for another five years.



The 89-year-old was jailed last month after admitting eight counts of sexual assault against a boy during the 1970s.

The Diocese of Chester subsequently issued an "unreserved apology" to Mr Dickenson's victim. Bosses accepted failing to act on information it had received concerning him.

It is unknown whether Dr Peter was personally aware of the letter.

The complaint will be overseen by the Archbishop of York. Dr John Sentamu is due to set out in 28 days whether it will be acted upon or dismissed.

He could insist the complaint be kept on file for up to five years or issue a penalty - which might include a rebuke to prohibition for life.

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Premier News reported last month that the Diocese of Chester would be the subject of an independent review by the Church of England's National Safeguarding Team.

The review and the CDM complaint are separate. In light of the review, Dr Peter said he was handing over responsibilities for safeguarding in his diocese to the Bishop of Birkenhead. He said: "I have taken this decision in response to recent comment into my handling of the Gordon Dickenson case in 2009.



The President of the MCI, Rev Billy Davison and his wife Loraine on Sunday last were with Revd Arlene Moore and the congregation of St Comgall's, Church of Ireland, Rathcoole. The President thanked Revd Arlene and congregation for their warm welcome and special time of fellowship. and wished St Comgalls every

blessing as they continue their witness for Christ.

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"An independent review will seek to identify where any failures in procedures arose, and what lessons can be learned and I look forward to contributing to the review and to giving a full account of my actions in relation to this matter.

"The Diocese of Chester takes seriously its safeguarding responsibilities at every level. Whilst an independent review into my actions takes place, I recognise that I should not continue to lead the safeguarding arrangements in the Diocese.

"I will continue in all other duties relating to my role of Bishop of Chester.

"I will not be making any further public comments in relation to this matter until the outcome of the independent review."

Scottish bishop: Eulogies belong at the funeral reception, not Mass

The funeral Mass is an important moment of prayer and faith after the death of a loved one – but it is not the appropriate time for eulogies, which are better suited for the funeral reception, said Bishop Joseph Toal of Motherwell, Scotland.

“The funeral liturgy in the Catholic Church brings great consolation and hope to those who have lost a loved one because we proclaim the Resurrection of the Lord and our

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hope of eternal life,” Toal said in a letter to priests and deacons.

“Its strength is in the faith of the Church and the words of the liturgy that express that faith. We need to accept therefore that it is what the Church offers us that counts most of all, rather than our own words.”

His April 3 letter on the celebration of funeral liturgies aimed to help clergy and lay faithful in arranging funerals.

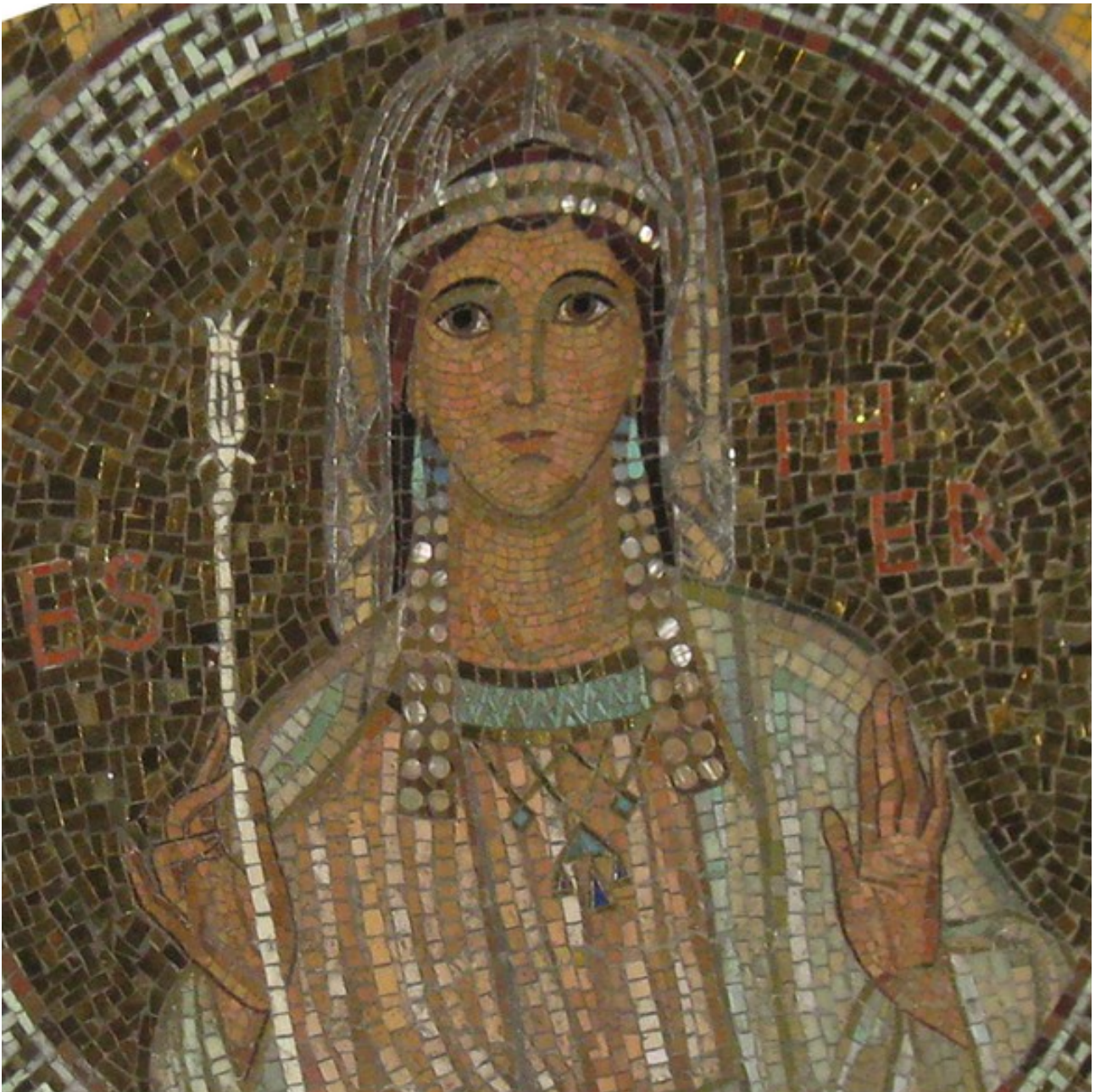
“Since the liturgy has its own structure and rhythm, especially the Requiem Mass, it should not be interrupted to add in our extras,” he said. The homily during the funeral Mass is “not a time therefore for anyone else to be getting up to talk about the deceased, whoever they may be.”

The bishop suggested “a few words of tribute could be offered” before a funeral Mass or service begins. “These words though should be written down and shown to the celebrant beforehand and should not be prolonged,” he added.

“Often what families want to hear and share can be offered in a more appropriate and less formal manner at the reception afterwards,” Toal continued. “Those closest to the deceased gather for this part of the funeral and it may well be better to share there their happy memories about the deceased in this setting.”

The Motherwell diocese has 66 parishes in Lanarkshire and parts of Glasgow. As of 2015, it served an estimated 162,000 Catholics, the diocese website reports.

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Esther tells the Old Testament story of a young Jewish girl who saves the Jewish people of Persia from the evil Haman. The story is the basis for the Jewish festival of Purim as well. Hear the Irish Baroque Orchestra perform Esther this Saturday in Christ Church, Dublin. Visit <http://christchurchtickets.com>

“The important point though is the full celebration of the Catholic funeral rites and our intercession that the deceased’s sins may be forgiven and that they will be

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Following a visit last Sunday to Ballynure, the Moderator of the PCI commented, “Many, many times this year I have felt in awe of colleagues, including James Rogers who led evening service at Ballynure Pres so meaningfully and beautifully. A very special guy!”

worthy to share in eternal life with God,” he said. The homily is just one part of the Mass or funeral service, and its role is “reflecting on the Word of God which has been proclaimed and leading into the celebration of the mysteries in which we place our faith.”

The bishop said that Church instruction for funerals clearly state that the priest or deacon who celebrates the funeral should “preach a homily as on other occasions on the Word of God, emphasizing at a funeral the hope of resurrection in Our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“The instruction specifically says the homily should not be a eulogy,” he added. “It is a homily therefore spoken by the priest or deacon.”

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It is also not appropriate to add a final tribute to the deceased before or during the close of the funeral Mass, known as the Final Commendation.

Bishop Toal said it is fitting for the preacher to integrate some details about the deceased person's life into the homily "so that it is personal and recognizes the family's wish to recall their loved one in a sensitive way." This requires some skill and "an effort to find out something about the deceased from their family."

"Clearly the homilist is not there to give a blow-by-blow account of the deceased's life but rather to use some of what he knows in a fitting manner through the course of the homily," he said, adding "whatever is said about the deceased should be accurate and prepared."

The bishop said the faithful should keep in mind that not all celebrants have the same ability to integrate the personal and the spiritual. He also offered guidance for family participation in the funeral liturgy.

While families sometimes want to do particular tasks during funerals, "it may be better to leave liturgical tasks to those who do them normally in the parish," Toal said.

Discussing in particular lectors and those who say the prayers of the faithful, the bishop noted, "It is an ordeal for people to come forward to read if they are not used to doing so, or perhaps are not even regular attenders in church." He encouraged family members of the deceased person to look to the priest or deacon for guidance, given their responsibility to decide on these roles.

Today in Christian history

April 5, 1524: Swiss reformer Ulrich Zwingli marries Anna Reinhart for the second time—this time in public. In 1522, Zwingli (and 10 other priests) appealed to the bishop of Constance for permission to marry. When the bishop refused the petition, Zwingli married secretly and, later that year, resigned from the priesthood.

April 5, 1649: John Winthrop, the first governor of Massachusetts Bay, dies. Profoundly religious, Winthrop, who left England because of its persecution of Puritans, believed New England to be "a city upon a hill" for the world to see and emulate.

April 5, 1811: Robert Raikes, founder of English Sunday schools in 1780, dies. Raikes built his Sunday schools not for respectable and well-mannered children of believers, but for (in one woman's description) "multitudes of wretches who, released on that day from employment, spend their day in noise and riot." In 4 years, 250,000 students were attending the schools, by Raikes's death, 500,000, and by 1831, 1.25 million.

News Links

[Church 'disappointed' at leak urging QUB to sever college link](#)

Belfast Telegraph

The Presbyterian **Church** in **Ireland** said yesterday: "We have been awaiting the final outcome of the university's review for some time now, the report ...

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**Queen's should end its links with theological college:
leaked review**

Belfast Newsletter

The Presbyterian **Church** in **Ireland** said it has been “awaiting the final ... Queen's declined an invitation from the **News** Letter to respond to those ...

**Presbyterian Moderator leads delegation on visit to
Dublin for discussions with TDs**

Belfast Telegraph

The Moderator of the Presbyterian **Church** in **Ireland**, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, was in Dublin yesterday leading a delegation to the Irish ...

**€300000 secured so far this year for Donegal's built
heritage**

Highland Radio

... Raphoe (€7,000), Stranorlar **Church of Ireland** (€4,000), Napoleonic Gun Battery, Rathmullan (€6,500), Dunree Lighthouse (€5,000), Mannie's Bar, ...

Reach out to your lonely neighbour, bishop pleads

The Irish Catholic

Church communities and **parish** activities can play a vital role in tackling the problem of loneliness which is becoming more prevalent in **Ireland**, ...

**Campaigner Colm O'Gorman slams church bosses after
claims sex abuse victim's reports were ...**

Irish Mirror

A sex abuse campaigner yesterday blasted **church** bosses after claims that victims at ... Now victims' advocate and Amnesty **Ireland** director, Colm O'Gorman

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Catholic schools in Ireland concerned by proposal to remove Church's patronage

Catholic News Agency

Dublin, **Ireland**, Apr 2, 2019 / 04:01 pm (CNA).- Parents and Catholic schools near Dublin have expressed their opposition to a Department of ...

68th annual concert for ladies choir

Portadown Times

Portadown Ladies **Choir** will be holding its 68th Annual Concert on Friday, April 12, at 8pm, in the ... who is one of the busiest comedians performing across **Ireland** and Scotland. ... The **Choir**, under the musical leadership of Gordon Speers BEM,

New young voices project coming to Offaly this Easter

Offaly Express

Once again, the amazing and dynamic Anne McCambridge, one of Ireland's ... Monday, May 6 3pm (Performance) St. Brendan's **Church of Ireland**.

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