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Dublin priest, to be Bishop of Cork & Ross

Pope Francis has appointed Dublin priest, Father Fintan Gavin, as Bishop John Buckley's successor in the Diocese of Cork & Ross.

Announcing the news in the Cathedral of Saint Mary & Saint Anne in Cork City, the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo described it as a special day in the life of the people of God in Cork and Ross.

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**The Reverend
Fintan Gavin**

Bishop-elect Gavin succeeds Bishop John Buckley who has served the diocese of Cork & Ross for over thirty-five years – as an Auxiliary Bishop from 1984-1997 and, from then to the present day as bishop of the diocese.



In his address after Sunday morning’s Mass in the Cathedral of Saint Mary and Saint Anne in Cork City, Bishop-elect Gavin said he was, “conscious of those who have felt let down by the Church and are just ‘hanging in there’.” He encouraged them “not to give up”.

The 53-year-old also said that leaving his life and ministry in Dublin will not be easy. He said, “I was very happily serving the Church as an ordinary priest in the Archdiocese of Dublin during the last 27 years since I was ordained in various different ministries. And as a North Side Dubliner I would never have expected such trust to be placed in me by Pope Francis by asking me to serve as a humble servant leader, the People of God, the Body of Christ of the Diocese of Cork & Ross.”

Welcoming his successor, Bishop Buckley described his appointment as “a new beginning”. He also joked about the

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appointment of a Dubliner to Cork but reassured Father Gavin that the people of Cork will give him a ‘Céad Míle Fáilte’.

Bishop Buckley said, “It is a great honour for a Dublin man to be promoted to the real capital of Cork! We always think down here that there are only two categories of people in Ireland, Cork people and those who wish they were Cork people! You have now obtained your wish thanks to Pope Francis.”

Welcoming his appointment, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin said, “Father Gavin will be missed in our diocese where he is known for his experience, knowledge and personal warmth.

“I am personally very pleased that his contribution has been recognised by Pope Francis and that he will have a an opportunity to bring his gifts and wide pastoral experience to the Diocese of Cork and Ross. He will be missed by all of us in Dublin but I know he will minister to the very best of his ability for the people of Cork and the wider Irish Church at the Bishops Conference level.”

Archbishop Martin paid tribute to Father Gavin’s ability to reach out to young people in the diocese of Dublin working with a variety of youth groups and young adults helping them to grow in faith in a variety of ways.

The Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork welcomed the news of the appointment of the Reverend Fintan Gavin as the next Bishop of Cork and Ross.

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Participants at the meeting of the Colloquium of Anglican and Roman Catholic Canon Lawyers in Rome in 2017 – on the right, Bishop Paul Colton and the Bishop-elect of Cork and Ross, the Reverend Fintan Gavin.

‘I am truly delighted to hear the news this morning that the Reverend Fintan Gavin is to be the next Bishop of Cork and Ross. The Bishop-elect was ordained to the diaconate in Dublin shortly after I arrived to serve in a Church of Ireland parish in Dublin early in 1990, and, already in the 1990s, our paths crossed. Then and since we have worked together in a number of pastoral contexts. We share a background in Canon Law. In recent times we have travelled to meetings, home and abroad, of the Colloquium of Anglican and

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Roman Catholic Canon Lawyers. As it happens, in the official photograph of the 2017 meeting in Rome we can be seen standing next to one another on the right of the picture.’

‘The announcement of the appointment by His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland brought, therefore, a broad smile of genuine warmth and joy to my face. I look forward to working with the new Bishop in the years ahead and to supporting him in his induction to “all things Cork”’.

‘With the greatest of delight I send Fintan my own warmest personal good wishes, together with those of the members of the Church of Ireland in Cork, on the occasion of his appointment as Bishop of Cork and Ross. On behalf of us all in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross I congratulate him and assure him of our ecumenical partnership and discipleship, as well as of our prayers as he prepares for his episcopal ordination and consecration. He will receive a very warm welcome from all of us to Cork.’

‘I wish also to take this opportunity to wish my good friend Bishop John Buckley every joy, contentment and blessing now that he is Bishop Emeritus. I have seen at first hand, in our work alongside one another over the past 20 years, his untiring work as Bishop, as well as the empathy and warmth of his pastoral work in our community.

“I have found it deeply enriching to work and pray with him, and to have his friendship. I know that the Church of Ireland people of Cork will join me in these good wishes to him also.’

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Ecumenical walk of Witness in Dublin on Good Friday



The Catholic and Church of Ireland Archbishops of Dublin will lead the traditional Good Friday silent walk through the streets of Dublin carrying a cross from Christchurch Cathedral to Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral on Friday 19 April 2019.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin and Archbishop Michael Jackson, the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough, will begin the Walk of Witness event with a moment of prayer in Christchurch Cathedral at 7.15pm.

The two archbishops will then quietly lead the crowds through Dublin city centre as they carry the cross of the ecumenical monastic community of Taizé across the Liffey to Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral for 8.00pm.

There will be an hour of meditative prayer around the cross with Taizé chants and music for about one hour until 9.00pm.

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All are welcome to join the archbishops on the walk which is approximately 2.5km in length.

Connor Mothers' Union President commissioned

Mrs Sally Cotter was commissioned Diocesan President of Connor Mothers' Union at the annual Festival Service in Belfast Cathedral on Sunday April 7.

Mrs Cotter, who lives in Ballymena, was commissioned by the Chaplain of Connor Mothers' Union, the Ven Dr Stephen McBride, Archdeacon of Connor. The theme of the service was 'Listen, Observe, Act – In Step with God.'

Preacher was the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde. Worship was led by the Cathedral Choir. The readings were by Mrs Lyn Cassidy, Mid Connor Area Secretary, and the Rev Dr Bob Cotter, husband of the new President. The Prayers of Intercession were led by Joyce Bond, Faith and Policy Unit Co-ordinator, and Irene Gates, Diocesan Secretary.

Banners for all Mothers' Union Branches in Connor Diocese were carried in procession and presented to the Diocesan Chaplain before the service, and carried out again in procession at the end.

Sally Cotter, a former primary school teacher, has been a member of Mothers' Union since 1989, and has held posts at all levels.

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Connor Mothers' Union President Mrs Sally Cotter with Archdeacon Stephen McBride, Connor MU Chaplain, left, and the Very Rev Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast.

Her first branch was St Nicholas, Carrickfergus, where she was branch young members' rep; area education rep. She was on the Prayer and Spirituality Unit and in 1996 was appointed Diocesan Marketing Co-ordinator.

In 2001 Sally became All-Ireland Marketing Co-ordinator and in 2007 was appointed to the Marketing Unit Committee at Mothers' Union headquarters in Mary Sumner House.

She was Diocesan Worldwide rep from 2007–2013, and since 2013 has been Vice-President of Fundraising and Communications in Connor Diocese.

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Sally joined the Broughshane branch of Mothers' Union in 2010, when her husband Bob became curate in the parish of Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncrommlin, Broughshane.

The couple met when they were both singing with the St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, Evening Choir in 1979. Sally was organist in First Lurgan Presbyterian Church for five years and in Holy Trinity Parish Church, Woodburn, for 13 years. She currently plays in Donegore Parish, and has been a church organist for 30 years.

She ran a Mothers' Union choir in Carrickfergus for 21 years. Named 'Sally's Singers,' the choir sang all over Ireland, north and south, and raised money for charity.

Sally has been a trustee of Carrickfergus Home Start for 20 years, and has also been a Sunday School Superintendent and a Girls' Brigade Officer.

Sally taught in King's Park Primary School in Newtownabbey for 31 years before taking early retirement. She and Bob have one son, Christopher.

She succeeds Mrs Valerie Ash as Connor Diocesan President.

YMCA programme to 'm-power' youth

A new programme is being offered at Larne YMCA to enable young people to make "positive changes in their lives".

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Victoria McGookin, m-power project worker, Geraldine Stinton, m-power project coordinator and Joy McNally, general secretary, Larne YMCA.

The 'm-power' youth project is being offered to those aged between 16 and 24 years.

Geraldine Stinton, m-power project co-ordinator, said: "m-power youth project enables young people, aged 16 to 24-years-old, to make positive changes in their lives and the lives of others.

"Young people involved on the project will have opportunities to make new friends, enjoy new experiences, develop confidence and gain qualifications.

"We focus on achievement and learning for life, empowering young people now and into their future."

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The programme runs for 26 weeks on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 10am-2.00 pm at Larne YMCA with plans for similar provision in Carrickfergus.

Project worker Vicki McGookin explained: “We will engage in a range of activities that are young person led, such as outdoor learning, citizenship and good relations activities and each young person will have the opportunity to attend up to three residentials at Greenhill YMCA in Newcastle, County Down.

“Young people will develop a sense of who they are and hopefully increase in self-esteem and decision making skills. We will learn essential skills such as cooking and money matters.”

There will also be accredited training, peer mentoring and group work led by the key issues and concerns important to young people. For further information, Vicki can be contact at Larne YMCA or by ringing 07391417184. The project is funded under the Children and Young People’s objective of the PEACE IV Programme and aims to promote peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. It is being offered at 11 locations.

Heartfelt tributes paid to Sr. Olcan Watt

Heartfelt tributes have been paid to Sr. Olcan Watt, the “much loved” Sister of the Cross and Passion whose funeral took place on Saturday.

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

Requiem Mass took place at St. Matthias Church in Belfast before burial in Ballycastle.

Sr. Olcan, who born in 1931 and was originally from Loughguile, was one of the founders of the cross-community Tuesday Group at Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre in Larne.

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

She attended school at Cross and Passion, Ballycastle, before training as a teacher.

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She then joined the CP congregation in Bolton, Lancashire, took her vows in 1959 and was asked to go to Bechuanaland in Botswana to join the Passionist mission.

During decades of “dedicated service” there, she guided a new religious community through its formative years to become established as The Sisters of Calvary.

Two members of the community were among mourners at her funeral, bringing many memories of the contribution that Sr Olcan made to their in country. Her coffin was draped in the flag of Botswana.

On her return in the early 1990s, Sr. Olcan settled in Drumalis and according to Sisters Margaret Rose and Anna, “she put all her energy and interest into the work for peace and reconciliation which was happening in a post-ceasefire era”.

The Sisters said that the Tuesday group had been founded in Drumalis in 1994. in”an effort to bring people together across religious and political divisions, to heal the wounds of violence and bring peace and reconciliation to the town.

When Sr. Olcan and Sr. Catherine moved to Drains Bay, they continued this work of building bridges through prayer, outreach and attending services in different churches. In 2017, both were awarded a BEM for their contribution to building peace.

“The presence of clergy and people from all traditions at her funeral was a recognition of the quiet influence of this wise and humble Cross and Passion nun.”

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“Her support for the YMCA, the apostolic work and the overseas missions was on going, even after her health declined and she was transferred to the CP community of care in Villa Pacis, Belfast.

Church Army leader Mark Russell to head up The Children's Society

Mark Russell is to join The Children's Society as its new CEO after 12 years at the helm of Church Army.

Mr Russell has had a varied career in Christian ministry that began at the age of 21 as a preacher in the Methodist Church in Ireland before becoming a youth minister at Christ Church, Chorleywood, in Hertfordshire.

In 2006, he was appointed CEO of Church Army but has also previously served as an executive for Christians on the Left.

Church Army is an evangelistic organisation reaching 11,000 people each month across the British Isles through various outreach programmes, including The Marylebone Project, which is the largest women-only homeless project in the UK.

It also runs centres of mission dedicated to evangelism and discipleship in communities, like the Sorted Project in

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Mark Russell

Bradford, which is a church for young people, run by young people.

Janet Legrand QC (Hon), Chair of The Children's Society, said Mr Russell's experience in senior leadership would help the charity drive forward its social justice mission to support more young people.

"His experience of working with politicians of all parties and social activists from all backgrounds will make him a powerful champion for the cause of The Children's Society to society, decision-makers, funders and to our supporters, new and old," she said.

Mr Russell will begin his new role in the summer when he takes over from interim CEO Nick Roseveare.

He said he was "excited and thrilled" to be joining The Children's Society.

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"Too many children and young people are frightened, alone and feel unloved. I am enthusiastic about The Children's Society's audacious strategy to disrupt disadvantage, supporting young people to not just survive, but thrive," he said.

"I am determined to strengthen the charity's commitment to diversity and inclusion and I look forward to fighting for change to build a country where vulnerable children can have better lives."

News briefs

+++Rededication of the bell at St. John's Church, in Glynn - will take place on Sunday during a special morning prayer service, starting at 11.30 am. The bell has been returned to its tower and is now fully functional. It had been removed for repairs in September. The bell, which dates back to 1840, had been suffering the effects of old age. Its crown had become damaged, so the fixture had to be removed as a safety precaution. When the bell fell silent in September, an inspection revealed that its crown had broken off. It was subsequently removed for health and safety reasons and sent for repair at a cost of £3,500. Glebe warden Derek Swann commented: "After a couple of attempts to get the striking hammer set into the correct position the engineer completed the work last Thursday. "The bell has had a good test run and has been heard ringing throughout the village."

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+++Lenten reflection Christ Church, Dublin - This evening (Tuesday) in the “I Wonder As I Wander” lenten reflection series the theme is Presence: from garden to city In the end there was a city... Reflections on Revelation 22 Doors open at 7:00pm and the scripture reflection begins at 7:30pm

+++John Stainer’s “Crucifixion” in Kildare - John Stainer’s “Crucifixion” St Brigid’s Cathedral, Kildare 14th April at 7.30pm Performed by Kildare Cathedral Singers With Choirs of Sandford Parish, Dublin and members of St Anne’s choir, Dublin.

+++The re–imagination of Church - Featherstonhaugh Lecture Series 2019. ‘The re–imagination of Church’, Wednesday, 10th April 2019, at 3pm. Venue: Church of Ireland Theological Institute. Canon Dr George Lings is one of England’s leading missiologists and an expert on the development of Fresh Expressions in the UK context. Until recently he directed the Church Army Research Unit in Sheffield and has contributed to ground–breaking research on the contemporary state of the church. He is particularly identified with the Mission–shaped Church report and has visited Ireland on numerous occasions. All are welcome to attend.

+++Rector appointed to Templepatrick - The Rev Jeremy Mould, curate of Belvoir Parish, Belfast, Diocese of Down and Dromore, has been appointed as Incumbent of the United Parish of Templepatrick and Donegore, Diocese of Connor. Jeremy, 56, is married to Jacqueline, with whom he has job shared the curacy in Belvoir for the last 16 years, and they have three sons and two grandchildren. The

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service of institution will take place at 8pm on May 30 in St Patrick's Parish Church, Templepatrick.

+++Communications and Fundraising Manager wanted

- The Bible Society NI is seeking to appoint a Communications and Fundraising Manager to join their team. To find out more, visit the BSNI website here <https://biblesocietyni.co.uk/2019/04/02/could-you-be-our-newcommunications-and-fundraising-manager/> where you will also be able to download the information pack and application form. Closing date for completed applications:* Monday 29 April at 12 noon

+++Food for thought - During this time of Lent we are invited to look to others too with charity, which frees us from the vanity of possessing, from thinking that things are good if they are good for me. Pope Francis

Today in Christian history

April 9, 1626: English philosopher of science Sir Francis Bacon dies. After a dizzying rise to political power (he was named lord chancellor in 1618) and a bribery scandal, Bacon retired to writing. He introduced the essay form to the English language and wrote *The New Atlantis*, which mixed his scientific approach and his Christian beliefs. "Knowledge is the rich storehouse for the glory of the Creator and the relief of man's estate," he wrote. "A little philosophy inclineth man's mind to atheism, but depth in philosophy bringeth men's minds about to religion".

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April 9, 1761: English devotional writer William Law dies. His writings, such as *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, greatly influenced George Whitefield and John Wesley though they later distanced themselves when Law wrote of the indwelling of Christ in the soul.

April 9, 1816: Richard Allen and others organize the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. The next day he was named the denomination's first bishop, thereby becoming the first black bishop in the United States. A few years earlier, Allen and his colleagues had left the Methodist Episcopal Church when it removed blacks from "white" seats during prayer.

April 9, 1906: In Los Angeles, Holiness minister William Seymour and several associates experience what they called the "baptism of the Spirit," marked by speaking in tongues. This launched the three-year "Azusa Street Revival," considered the first major public event of Pentecostalism.

April 9, 1945: The Gestapo hangs German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, after discovering his involvement in a failed plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler. Bonhoeffer's last recorded words were, "This is the end—for me, the beginning of life".

News Links

[Pope Francis confirms Monsignor Fintan Gavin as new Bishop of Cork & Ross](#)
[Independent.ie](#)

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He will replace Dr John Buckley as bishop of one of **Ireland's** biggest ... this morning - the **church** where his installation ceremony will be celebrated.

[Fr Fintan Gavin appointed as new Bishop of Cork and Ross](#) - Irish Examiner

[Greenville "Ulster Project" hosts trivia night fundraiser](#)

WITN

Following an extended pastoral exchange with a clergyman in Manchester, Connecticut, Father Kerry Waterstone, a **Church of Ireland** (Anglican) ...

[School Choir of the Year: Ebrington and Thornhill celebrate](#)

BBC News

The rest of the judging panel was made up of Ciaran Scullion, head of music for the Arts Council for Northern **Ireland**, Richard Yarr, a senior producer ...

[Radharc Na hAbhann Will Celebrate Ireland's Inland Waterways Through Story & Song At Riverfest ...](#)

Afloat

The **Church of Ireland** in Limerick city will be celebrating the traditions and legacy of Ireland's inland waterways through story and song with a special .

[Irish parents turn their backs on traditional Holy Communion by hosting non-religious events instead](#)

Irish Mirror

More and more parents are turning their backs on traditional Holy Communion ceremonies and hosting non-**religious** events for their children...

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[Islands, churches and partitionThe uneasy co-existence of national struggles and conservative ...](#)

The Economist

In both **Ireland** and Cyprus, the relationship between an armed rebel movement and a Christian **church** remains contentious ...

[Ugandan senior priest receives Lambeth award](#)

New Vision

A Ugandan retired senior priest of the **Church** of England, The Venerable ... In total 27 awards were this year given to people from across the **Church** and ... Kiyaga, the deputy Kabaka's Representative to UK and Republic of **Ireland**.

[Christians stage Trafalgar Square rally against deadly violence](#)

Premier

A rally staged by Christian groups and **churches** to highlight the blight of violent ... **Churches** Together in Britain and **Ireland** (CTBI) and Southwark Diocese. ... No one in the UK is doing **news** like we are across radio, magazines and ...

[Church app prompts 930 reports of possible car wash slaves](#)

Premier

Church app prompts 930 reports of possible car wash slaves ... by the **Church of England** (C of E) and the Catholic **Church in England** and Wales.

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