



Kunja Ntandula, a 43-year-old mother of six children, who lost everything including her house when the floods submerged her entire village of Mwalija, Malawi. Kunja Ntandula, a 43-year-old mother of six children, lost everything including her house when the

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floods submerged her entire village of Mwalija, Malawi. She was able to rescue her children, aged between seven months and seven years. They climbed a tree and were rescued by a canoe and moved upland. She is now seeking shelter in Njelza camp. Her immediate needs are food, shelter, and non-food items. At the camp, they only have access to one meal a day. She is very worried about her young children.

See report this issue on further C of I support for Cyclone survivors

First ever broadcast of Easter services from Saint Patrick's College Maynooth

Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth (SPCM), has been chosen by RTÉ religious broadcasting as the venue for the televised broadcast of this year's Good Friday and Easter Vigil ceremonies on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 April. It is the first time that the Easter services have been broadcast from the College Chapel, Maynooth, the extraordinarily beautiful neo-Gothic chapel at the heart of the national seminary. This year's broadcast will be viewed throughout Ireland and also by worldwide audiences *via* the internet.

Three new pieces of music by Irish composers have been especially commissioned as part of these broadcast services. A choir of thirty voices will be directed by Dr John O'Keeffe, director of sacred music at SPCM. Dr O'Keeffe

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led all of the choirs during last year's Papal Mass in Phoenix Park for the 9th World Meeting of Families in Ireland.

Dr John O'Keeffe said, "All across the country, and, indeed, the world during the Triduum days, there are musicians endeavouring to do justice to the great events that we gather to celebrate. Here in Maynooth, we try to build on the foundations of two major traditions, the rich heritage of chant and choral music that has grown up with the Church's Liturgies down the centuries, and the cultural

devotional musical and language aspects of our native tradition. Onto these each year, we try to graft on new musical elements, to help us grasp in a deeper way, the contemporary significance of the Christian story. For this year's Easter Triduum Celebrations, members of seminary



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- Childrens
Corner**
- Tombola**
- Raffle**

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choir are joined by staff, student staff and alumni singers from both university; and it is an honour and a privilege to us to be involved in this year's broadcast of the Easter celebrations in our College Chapel."

Commenting ahead of the Easter services, Father Tomás Surlis, rector of the national seminary at Saint Patrick's College, said, "The atmosphere of the chapel is always spiritual and evocative. While the Good Friday Passion is sombre, solemn and meditative, the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night will be joyous. The pitch-dark chapel will be illuminated by hundreds of individual candles held aloft by congregation members, all of them lit from the Paschal Candle which will itself be lit from the Paschal Fire situated outside the College Chapel. It will no doubt be a very special celebration this year."

Saint Patrick's College Chapel is regarded as one of the finest churches ever built in Ireland. Completed in 1891, it was designed specifically for sung service and has 454 ornately carved wooden choir stalls, more than any other church in the world. The congregation will comprise local parishioners, family and friends of seminarians, lay students from Saint Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth University as well as faculty and staff member from both university.

The College community is extending an invitation to those who would like to be part of the congregation in the chapel to make contact with Caroline at 'SPCM Special Events' by emailing specialevents@spcm.ie or by calling (01) 708 3964. For those unable to be physically present, the ceremonies can be watched as follows:

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- Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday 19 April – RTÉ One Television and RTÉ Radio 1 Extra from 3.00pm to 4.15pm; and,
- Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday 20 April – RTÉ One Television and RTÉ Radio 1 Extra from 11.00pm to 12.40am.

Presbyterian Moderator praises police during pastoral visits

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has spoken of “society’s debt to police officers” while praising their “selflessness” and the “vital role they play in keeping us all safe.”

Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen made his comments during a ‘pastoral visit’ to Strand Road police station in Londonderry.

With another visit to Ardmore PSNI station in Newry scheduled, the engagements come after Dr McMullen led a church delegation to the Policing Board for Northern Ireland in January. He has also met police officers in various locations in Northern Ireland during his year in office.

“When I met with representatives of the Policing Board I said that as a community, we all share a responsibility to support the PSNI and its officers. My visits to various police stations are practical reinforcements of those

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The President of the Methodist Church at an inter-church service in Knock. See News briefs this issue

sentiments and a desire to listen, encourage and to pray,” Dr McMullen said.

He was joined on his visit by Very Rev Dr Rob Craig, former Presbyterian Moderator and Minister of Kilfennan Presbyterian Church, one of the PCI’s local congregations.

During the visit the senior churchmen met the area commander for PSNI’s Derry City and Strabane District, T/ Superintendent Alan Hutton, who briefed them on policing in the district. They also met with police officers who were on duty at the time.

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The Presbyterian Moderator with senior officers at Strand Road PSNI Station, Londonderry. Pictured l-r are PSNI's Derry City and Strabane District Commander T/Superintendent Alan Hutton, T/Chief Inspector Jonny Hunter, Very Rev Dr Rob Craig and the Moderator, Dr Charles McMullen.

“These visits are primarily ‘pastoral’ and have grown out of a genuine desire of our Church to thank police officers for their selflessness and the vital role that they play in keeping us all safe. I wanted to convey to them, and their senior commanders, that along with the technical and support staff, they are valued,” Dr McMullen continued.

Appreciating and acknowledging the personal and professional demands that society and today’s

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uncertainties place on police officers, the Moderator reiterated the message he gave in his sermon at September's National Police Memorial Day Service, which was held in Belfast.

“When I gave the sermon I spoke about the parable of the Good Samaritan and the different examples set by those Jesus spoke of in the story. I used the analogy for a specific and perhaps obvious reason, that in keeping us safe police officers act as ‘Good Samaritans’ out of a sense of duty to the common good.

“Meeting members of the policing team here has been a special opportunity to listen and to discuss many things, including some that are particularly challenging. I was also very thankful for being able to pray God's blessing and protection upon all who serve,” Dr McMullen added.

In his Easter Message, Dr McMullen also referenced the police service and others “who do not make the headlines, but make such a difference”.

Good Friday Way of the Cross walk in Limerick City

Good Friday in Limerick City will see Christian communities come together for a ‘Way of the Cross’ walk through the streets.

The procession will be led by Bishop Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick; Archbishop Richard Clarke, COI

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Archbishop of Armagh; Bishop Kenneth Kearon, COI Bishop of Limerick Diocese; Dean Niall J. Sloane of Saint Mary's Church of Ireland and Father Noel Kirwan, Dean of Saint John's Cathedral.

The ecumenical walk will link the city's two cathedrals in another reminder of the closeness of Christian faith. The Way of the Cross will take place in a week in which the significance of faith and the spaces in which Christians worship was brought to the fore as people the world over were shocked and saddened by the fire that ravaged Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Bishop Brendan Leahy and Bishop Kenneth Kearon have penned a joint letter of support to the Archbishop of Paris Michel Christian Alain Aupetit in response to the fire.

Friday's ceremony will commence at 12 midday with an opening rite at St. Mary's Cathedral. The walk will then commence with participants pausing for prayers at various locations to acknowledge the services that are in place for those affected by poverty and other social issues in the city.

One of the stops along the walk will be at Arthur's Quay where youth mental health service Jigsaw is based, and at Poor Man's Kilkee in recognition of the work of the Samaritans, also on mental health issues.

The walk will also take in the Bedford Row Family Project which engages with families of prisoners; Brother Russell House at Gerald Griffin Street in recognition of work done there for the homeless, particularly through food distribution, St. John's Hospital for the sick and then to St. John's Cathedral for the Closing Rite.

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Commenting ahead of the walk, Bishop Leahy said, “This is the first time we will have a significant ecumenical Good Friday procession and we encourage everyone who is in need of support or know someone who needs support to join us in this very special gathering.

“Many countries have a great tradition of procession at Easter and we have, too, but mostly these Stations are in our churches. It is only right that we bring this procession out into the public, to let those people who need support and those who provide support know that they are foremost in our thoughts.

“The fact also that we are linking our two cathedrals is very pertinent in a week in which the world has been shocked by the fire at Notre Dame. It is one of the great cathedrals of the world but we have our own great cathedrals here and, in fact, St. Mary’s Cathedral is just five years younger than Notre Dame and the oldest building in Limerick still in use today.”

Bishop Kenneth Kearon said, “Christ suffered on the Cross for us and we do the Way of the Cross in reparation for what he endured. But today there are many, many people who endure suffering, who carry crosses and we want to bring them into our thoughts this Good Friday with this procession.

“We must pray for them and support them and our Good Friday procession is a statement of solidarity with them at this solemn time as we also remember the ultimate sacrifice made for us by Christ.”

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Archbishops' Good Friday Walk of Witness in Dublin

The Church of Ireland and Catholic Archbishops of Dublin, Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, will lead a silent procession through Dublin's city centre on the evening of Good Friday (April 19).

They will carry the cross of the ecumenical monastic community of Taizé through the streets from Christ Church Cathedral across the Liffey to St Mary's Pro Cathedral.

The Walk of Witness will begin at Christ Church Cathedral following a short service at 7.15pm and proceed to St Mary's Pro Cathedral. The walk will be followed by Taize Prayer around the Cross in St Mary's Pro Cathedral.

All are very welcome to join the Archbishops on this 2.5 kilometre walk.

More C of I support for survivors of Cyclone Idai

In response to the continued desperate needs of the survivors of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal is releasing a further €10,000 to support the relief efforts.

The initial €10,000 donation has gone a long way to providing food, shelter, clean water and life-saving medicine

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where it is most needed. However, Christian Aid's Malawi Country Manager, Pansi Katenga, says that the scale of devastation is still enormous and survivors need help to stay alive.

“Although the rains have stopped for now, they're forecast to begin again soon, and we need to help people who are most vulnerable before the situation gets worse,” Pansi said. ‘The most at risk are children under five, lactating mothers and pregnant women, who need to keep up their nutrition.’”

As parishes and individuals continue to send in donations, these will be added to the Bishops' Appeal fund and sent to support Christian Aid and Tearfund partners working tirelessly on the ground. £40/€45 can supply a family with an emergency kit complete with hygiene items and essential food.

All support is welcomed and appreciated. Donations can be made online at <https://store.ireland.anglican.org/donations> and further details for giving by post, by bank lodgement, or through parish donations are available at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give

Prizewinning choir for Whitehead charity concert

A prizewinning choir will be performing at a charity concert at St. Patrick's Church, in Whitehead, on Saturday May 18, at 7.30 pm.

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Whitehead Ladies' Choir (above) will be joined by their special guests mezzo-soprano, Carolyn Dobbin and pianist Michael Harrison and accompanied by Karl Bennett.

The choir's musical director Diane Creighton has selected a varied repertoire for the evening.

Last week, Whitehead Ladies' Choir won the ICI Trophy at Carrick Music Festival.

In March, they performed at a televised concert to "Celebrate St. Patrick" in Armagh Cathedral.

Tickets for next month's concert can be purchased from The Bank House in Whitehead at a cost of £10, including a

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light supper. All proceeds will be donated to the Cancer Centre.

New Assistant Director of Music at Cork Cathedral

The Cathedral Select Vestry of Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork has announced the appointment of Robbie Carroll as Assistant Director of Music. He will take up the post in September taking over from current Assistant Director Phoebe Chow who leaves in July to take up a post in England. He will also be working on the Diocesan Church Music Scheme which works with primary and secondary schools and parishes across the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

Robbie Carroll is a native of Galway, and his earliest musical training began as organ scholar of Galway Cathedral with Ray O'Donnell. He then studied on the BMus degree at DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama, graduating in 2017 with a First-Class Honours in organ performance.

His organ tutors while studying included the late Una Russell, Colm Carey, Siobhán Kilkelly and Simon Harden. During this time, he was also the organ scholar of St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, working with Titular Organist Prof. Gerard Gillen, and Director of the 'Palestrina Choir' of boys and men, Blánaid Murphy. With the choir, Robbie has performed in venues both home and abroad, and has accompanied the choir on tours to the USA, Brussels and Rome. He has

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also accompanied the choir for a CD recording.

Upon completion of his Bachelor degree, Robbie pursued further studies in Germany. He is currently in his final semester of the 'Organ-Solo' Master, in the *Hochschule für Musik und Tanz*, Cologne. He now studies with Prof. Winfried Bönig, organist of Cologne Cathedral. He is also

the current *Orgelstipendiat*, or organ scholar, of the church of St. Peter und Paul, Ratingen, where he studies improvisation with Ansgar Wallenhorst.

Robbie has won multiple prizes in the ESB *Feis Ceoil*, and has also competed in the Northern Ireland International Organ competition. He was the first ever organist to compete in the 'Freemasons Young Musician of the Year', and was the 2016 winner of the Brennan Prize, for 'the most promising musician in the competition'.

Robbie has given solo recitals in Ireland, the UK and Germany, and has also performed multiple times as concerto soloist. He has participated in masterclasses with

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Dr John Kitchen, Dame Gillian Weir, Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, Eric Lebrun, and Prof. Henry Fairs, among others. He also holds an Associate Diploma in piano performance, and is an Associate of the Royal College of Organists.

Easter message from Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael B. Curry

The Rt. Reverend Barbara Harris was the first woman ordained and consecrated a bishop in The Episcopal Church and in the Anglican Communion. In her memoir, entitled *Hallelujah, Anyhow!* [she] quotes an old Gospel hymn that says it this way:

*Hallelujah anyhow
Never let your troubles get you down
When your troubles come your way
Hold your hands up high and say
Hallelujah anyhow!*

When I get to Heaven, I want to meet one person, and her name is Mary Magdalene. Because if ever there was another Hallelujah, Anyhow sister, it was Mary Magdalene. And her life, and her example, tells us what it means to follow in the way of Jesus, in the Way of Love.

Mary Magdalene showed up when others would not. Mary Magdalene spoke up when others remained silent. Mary Magdalene stood up when others sat down.

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John's Gospel tells us that when many of the disciples fled and abandoned Jesus, Mary Magdalene stood by him at the cross. Hallelujah, Anyhow.

Against the odds, swimming against the current, Mary Magdalene was there.

John's Gospel says in the 20th chapter, early in the morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene and some of the other women went to the tomb. Hallelujah, Anyhow.

They went to the tomb when it didn't make any sense. They went to the tomb when the evidence was against them. Jesus was dead. They knew that. The power of the Empire had crushed the hope of love. They knew that. And they got up in the morning and went to the tomb anyhow. Hallelujah, Anyhow.

But more than that, John's Gospel says it was dark. It was dark. That's not just the time of day in John's Gospel. The darkness in John is the domain of evil. In John's Gospel when Judas leaves the Last Supper to betray Jesus, John inserts a parenthetical remark. When Judas leaves to betray him, John says, "And it was night." The darkness is the domain of wrong, of hatred, of bigotry, of violence, the domain of sin and death and horror.

And early in the morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, Hallelujah, Anyhow.

The truth is, she didn't know that Jesus was alive. She was just doing what love does. Caring for her beloved, her

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Savior, her friend, in his time of death, to give him the last rites of burial. And when she got to the tomb, and the other women with them, they eventually discovered that Jesus was alive, and in the silence of the night, in the moments of despair, in the moments of the worst darkness, God had done something incredible. God had raised Jesus from the dead.

The truth is, nobody saw Jesus rise from the dead, because God had done it secretly and quietly, when nobody was looking.

When I was in high school, I learned a poem composed by James Russell Lowell. He wrote it in the 19th century, in one of the darkest periods in American history, when this country was torn asunder by the existence of chattel slavery in our midst. In this great land of freedom, there were slaves being held in bondage. And this nation literally went to war, tearing itself apart, trying to find the way to do what was right. And James Russell Lowell wrote, in the midst of this darkness, in this dark hour:

Though the cause of evil prosper, yet 'tis truth alone and strong . . .

Though her portion be a scaffold, and upon the throne be wrong

Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim unknown

Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own

Hallelujah, Anyhow.

Christ is risen

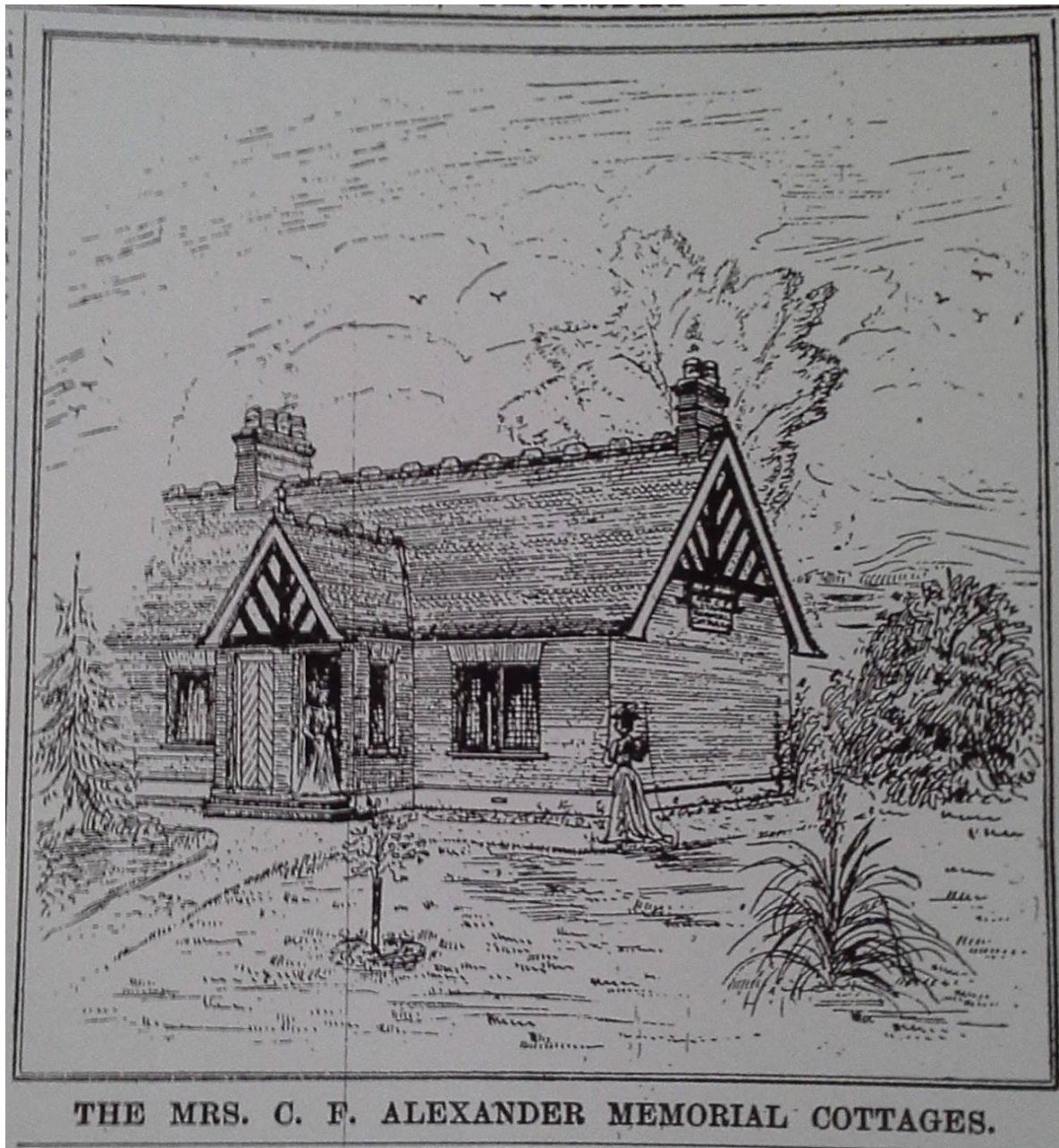
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The Lord is risen, indeed.

God love you, God bless you, and may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.

Heritage - Alexander Cottages



An illustration, which appeared in the Londonderry Sentinel in December 1901, of a couple of a half-dozen newly-built cottages, off Carrigans Lane in the city of

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Londonderry, as a memorial to famous hymn-writer, Cecil Frances Alexander.

The idea of commemorating Mrs Alexander by means of cottages was due to the Duchess of Abercorn, who was impressed by the view that as the gifted poetess devoted all the profits derived from her publications to the alleviation of sickness and distress the memorial should harmonise with Mrs Alexander's life scheme.

Today in Christian history

April 17, 1492: Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella give Christopher Columbus a commission to seek a westward ocean passage to Asia. Though he was also interested in wealth, Columbus saw himself as a "Christ-bearer" who would carry Christ across the ocean to people who had never heard the gospel (see issue 35: Christopher Columbus).

April 17, 1708: Ambrose, Archbishop of Moscow from 1768-1771 is born. In 1771, in the middle of an outbreak of the plague, Ambrose (who is known for his translations of the Hebrew psalter and some Greek and Latin fathers) was martyred by a mob when he removed an icon from the church to prevent the spread of infection.

April 17, 1937: With Mussolini's troops occupying Ethiopia, Sudan Interior Mission missionaries who had started a small church among the previously devil-worshipping Wallamo tribe are forced to leave the country. "We knew

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God was faithful," one missionary wrote. "But still we wondered—if we ever come back, what will we find?" The missionaries returned in July 1943 to find that, despite severe persecution by Italian soldiers, the Christian community had grown from 48 members to 18,000.

News briefs

+++Archbishop Jackson responds to Notre Dame fire -

The Archbishop Dublin stated - "People in the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough were devastated to witness the fire that ripped through the upper stories of Notre Dame de Paris and that was visible to the whole world with flames and smoke billowing into the skyline. The medieval cathedral is synonymous with Paris and beloved of Parisians. It attracts millions of tourists and pilgrims annually and inspires them through its graceful architectural lines and its countless works of art that are built into its spiritual fabric. The aesthetic and the spiritual combine in ways that enable the human soul to transcend the everyday and to sense something of the presence and power of God.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all associated with the daily life of the cathedral as they will have been in the early stages of Holy Week liturgy and worship. While the cathedral's destruction looks to all like desolation, we hope that a full restoration will be possible. Notre Dame has withstood many vicissitudes throughout its history. We are confident it has the energy to rise again."

+++MCI President visits Knock - Last week end the President of the Methodist Church, Rev Billy Davison, was on the Belfast District on Palm Sunday to share with Rev

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Stephen Sheerin in Dundonald, and in the evening with the Rev Britt Gilmore in a United Circuit Service in Knock. He said, "Lorraine and I appreciated the warm welcome and special time of worship and fellowship as together we celebrated the triumphal entry of king Jesus into Jerusalem."

+++MU focus on organ donation - Jo-Anne Dobson, Northern Ireland charity ambassador for the patient support charity Kidney Care UK, was a guest of Belfast Cathedral's Mothers' Union on Saturday April 14. The former Assembly Member, who donated a kidney to her son Mark in March 2018, was invited to the branch meeting to talk about kidney donation and raise awareness of all types of organ donation.

+++ Crafters' Last Supper tableau - was created by the Tuesday Crafters who meet at St Mark's, Ballymacash, Lisburn, twice a month.

The ladies of the group have been working on the Last Supper display for the last few months. They have also knit colourful Easter chicks which will be filled with cream eggs and distributed to the housebound over the Easter period. The Last Supper project follows on from the group's Christmas 'Knitivity' – a totally knitted Nativity scene. The Tuesday Crafters' group was established in St Mark's Parish Hall last September

+++Easter Story production in five Scottish towns - An ambitious production of the Easter Story is being staged across five towns in Lanarkshire during Holy Week and ending on Good Friday. Beginning on Palm Sunday, performances of the immersive People's Passion are taking

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place in Wishaw, Motherwell, Carluke, Lanark and Hamilton.

+++Food for thought - "I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity." – General Dwight D. Eisenhower

News Links

[How do we create a better society? Announcing the 'Forward Together' podcasts](#)

Sluggie O'Toole

The first podcast will be released this Good Friday (19th April) with an interview with **Bishop Ken Good**, the **Church of Ireland** bishop for Derry and ...

[Dementia-friendly Coleraine church service a first](#)

Belfast telegraph

The service for sufferers, family members and other carers will be held in St Patrick's **Church of Ireland** in the town centre at 2.30pm. The worship will ...

[A history of great cathedrals that have been lost to fire and war](#)

Washington Post

... Cathedral in London (actually the fourth attempt at a **church** named for Paul in that spot, ... St. Mel's cathedral in **Ireland** was built in the 19th century.

[Paris fire highlights risk to old Irish churches, says Martin](#)

Irish Times

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The Catholic Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin has expressed concern that some Irish **churches** could face the same fate as Notre Dame as he ...

[Presbyterian Moderator praises police during pastoral visits](#)

Belfast Newsletter

The Moderator of the Presbyterian **Church** in **Ireland** has spoken of “society's debt to police officers” while praising their “selflessness” and the “vital ...

[Professor sacked for BBC contribution says he's considering leaving the Presbyterian Church](#)

Premier

A spokesperson for the Presbyterian **Church** in **Ireland** said in a statement ...

[Church group has exhibition of quilts sewn up](#)

Belfast telegraph

A Co Antrim church will host a special Easter exhibition of colourful quilts ... Fifteen craft enthusiasts at St Cedma's **Church of Ireland** in Larne have ...

[Official marks retired pope's birthday, commenting on his latest letter](#)

Crux: Covering all things Catholic

... to the people of Ireland in response to the abuse crisis, Benedict had written that, “in order to recover from this grievous wound, the **Church in Ireland** ...

[Cork International Choral Festival 2019](#)

The Journal of Music

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Founded in 1954 to be a dynamic force in developing **choral** music in **Ireland**, the Cork International **Choral** Festival is held annually over the five days ...

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