

## Four nuns form band at University and its called Force of Habit



***Sisters Miriam Holzman, piano, Louis Marie Zogg, right, saxophone, and Mary Andre Thelen, second from right, trumpet, and Brother Brad Elliott, left, drums, practice with their band Force of Habit for an upcoming concert at Catholic University in Washington.***

One Saturday afternoon this month a band gathered to jam at the Dominican House of

Studies, not far from the Catholic University of America.

The drummer, a Dominican friar, counted them down.

Brother Brad Elliott, dressed in a habit behind his drum kit, was joined by Sister Miriam Holzman on the piano. Sister Peter Grace Weber was off to the side, with a bass guitar. Sister Louis Marie Zogg, on the saxophone, stood next to Sister Mary André Thelen, on the trumpet.

As the session continued, Brother Brad bopped his head, grinning. The sisters kept giggling as they worked out timing and tempo and little blips. There was joy in the room, and what they played.

Which was not church music. The band played “Unforgettable” and “What a Wonderful World,” because sweet jams are not just for the secular.

Sisters Miriam, Louis Marie, Peter Grace and Mary André are members of Force of Habit, a band led by nuns who live and study at Catholic University. The band is rounded out by Brother Brad and Father Jude DeAngelo, the university chaplain and director of campus ministry, on

vocals. And, actually, they're not bad. -  
Washington Post

## NI march marks Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day



***The march was held in Belfast city centre on Sunday.***  
A march has taken place in Belfast to mark Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day and stand against anti-Semitism, discrimination, and racism.

Over 200 people took part in the procession from Jaffe Fountain to Belfast City Hall on Sunday, including those from both the Jewish and Christian communities.

Mike McNally, one of the organisers, said: "We want to say 'never again' to this atrocity and

make a public declaration against modern anti-Semitism.

“We believe that events such as these are a declaration to the younger generations that we should never forget the Holocaust and should never be silent when hatred and bitterness are expressed against human kind by human kind.

“This lesson should never be forgotten.”

***The older generation, the survivors - together with the younger generation - say to those who sought our destruction: ‘You failed. We are here and we stand together with our friends, united in a cause for peace.’***  
– RABBI DAVID SINGER

Local rabbi David Singer added: “The lessons of the tragic past are being learnt slowly but surely.

“Momentum is gathering to remember those six million who perished in the Holocaust.

“Voices are being raised more and more and in many places around the world so that the past mistakes will not be repeated.”

He added: “As the survivors grow older, frailer, and fewer, we are making a mark to say: ‘We remember, we will honour, we will not forget, and we will do all in our power to prevent a recurrence.’”

DUP MLA Peter Weir was among those taking part in the commemoration.

“It is my honour to take part in this event and stand with others in remembering those who were murdered during the Shoah (Holocaust) wrought upon the Jewish community,” he said.

“I believe it is vitally important that our young people both understand the horrors of the Holocaust and its context in our society today.”

## **Hundreds attend dedication of new Presbyterian church in Moira**

Moira Presbyterian Church was officially opened and dedicated by the Rt Rev Dr Frank Sellar, moderator of the General Assembly, on Friday.

The service was led by the minister, the Rev Howard Gilpin, who gave the call to worship and



***The new Moira Presbyterian Church was officially opened and dedicated by the Rt Rev Dr Frank Sellar, moderator of the General Assembly***

welcomed the congregation and guests who included the Lagan Valley MP Sir Jeffrey Donaldson. In his address, Rev Sellar said that the opening of a new church building is a splendid thing and the temptation now is to sit back and relax. But the moderator added: "While it's a marvellous achievement to construct a new building, it's even more vital to live faithful, vibrant Christ-like lives". Rev Gilpin, who has served as minister of the congregation since 2001, told the News letter: "The new church building is wonderful and features very modern facilities such as a coffee bar, crèche, dedicated meeting room and other offices.



***More than 500 people attended Friday's service***

“Over 500 people attended the opening and dedication service, and the response to the new building has been very positive and encouraging. “The old church building was inadequate for the needs of the congregation and this new premises will serve us well as we look ahead to the future.”

In historical terms this is one of the older congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, dating back to the late 17th Century. The new church build is the fifth meeting house in the history of the congregation; the previous one had been built in 1829 and served the congregation for almost 190 years. The present congregation

consists of 275 families. Report courtesy of the News Letter



## **Day of Prayer in Ballyrashane for South Sudan on Saturday**

A Day of Prayer for South Sudan will take place in Ballyrashane Parish, Connor Diocese, this Saturday, April 29, from 10am to 2pm.

This is the second in a series of prayer events organised by CMSI to give people the opportunity to pray for our partners in South Sudan, where there is ongoing conflict and famine.

Just last month, Bishop Hilary of Yei appealed to the Diocese of Connor to support the people from his diocese both trapped in Yei town and trying to survive and educate their children in huge refugee camps.



The two dioceses have been in partnership for almost 10 years, and the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, has been on one of the many teams to visit Yei before the outbreak of the current conflict.

CMSI's first prayer day was held in Dromore Cathedral April 8. These are drop in events with prayer stations and an opportunity to write personal messages and prayers into 'Books of Blessing,' one for Yei and one for Maridi, partner dioceses in South Sudan.

CMSI is planning another key South Sudan event on May 19 at 7.30pm. Taking place in the Grosvenor Hall, Belfast, this will be an evening of information about the current crisis with a question and answer panel for anyone wanting to engage with the current situation.

Bishop Anthony Poggo, formerly of Kajo Keji Diocese, but now Adviser for Anglican Communion Affairs at Lambeth, will give the keynote address.

Earlier this month, the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, made a donation of £5,000 from Black Santa funds to Christian Aid for humanitarian work in South Sudan. This was in

addition to a Black Santa donation of £7,000 in March, also for aid in South Sudan.

You can make a donation to CMSI's Yei Appeal [here](#). You can also donate to South Sudan via Christian Aid and Bishops' Appeal.

## Archbishop of Armagh Visits Chaplains at HMP Maghaberry



***Left to right: Revd Leslie Spence, Canon Jim Harron, Canon Robert Howard, Archbishop Richard Clarke, Canon Shane Forster.***

The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh, recently made a visit to HMP Maghaberry at the invitation of the Church of Ireland Chaplains to the prison. The visit enabled the Archbishop to learn about the life of Northern [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

Ireland's high profile top security prison and the ongoing pastoral work of the chaplaincy team there. The chaplains take as their cue Christ's words in Matthew 25:36: '...I was in prison and you came to visit me' and they seek to look after the spiritual welfare of prisoners and offenders.

Archbishop Clarke, who was accompanied by his Executive Chaplain, the Revd Canon Shane Forster, and the Church of Ireland Press Officer, was met by the Revd Canon Robert Howard and the Revd Canon Jim Harron, the Church of Ireland Prison Chaplains at Maghaberry, as well as by the Revd Leslie Spence, the Methodist Prison Chaplain. After a poignant moment at the NI Prison Service Roll of Honour which includes officers killed in service as recently as 2016 and 2012, the group was welcomed by the Deputy Governor of the prison who took time to discuss the running of the institution and its threefold strategy of managing a stable prison regime, working within resources and focusing on outcomes for offenders.

The Archbishop's group then toured a number of the prison buildings and facilities including the education centre and library, the laundry and the health wing, where the Archbishop met with and

spoke to a number of prisoners, before visiting the prison chapel where he spoke and prayed with a number of the wider team of prison chaplains. The visit concluded with a visit to the Braille Unit – which has delivered a number of Braille projects for the Church of Ireland such as the Hymnal, the Book of Common Prayer and the recent Hymnal Supplement, Thanks & Praise, over the past fifteen years

Archbishop Clarke commented, ‘It has been instructive and illuminating to have had the opportunity to see at first-hand something of the very challenging work undertaken at Maghaberry Prison and to meet with staff, the chaplains and a number of inmates. Clearly, it is a highly complex environment dealing with prisoners of every category and facing into a wide range of deep societal problems. I have been impressed by the valuable contributions of the prison staff and by the steady dedication of the chaplains, whom I trust we will hold in our prayers as they engage with the prisoners there.’ Report courtesy - The Church of Ireland Gazette.

## **C of I ‘Apologetic for Mission’**

A serious conversation about mission is taking place at all levels of the Church of Ireland. To contribute to this conversation The Mission to End Leprosy (The Leprosy Mission Ireland) has commissioned and published a paper from the Revd Earl Storey entitled The Church of Ireland – Apologetic for Mission?

In his Presidential address to the 2016 General Synod the Archbishop of Armagh suggested that commemorating 150 years since Disestablishment was an opportunity to have “a comprehensive, objective and external review” of ourselves as a Church community. This is an invitation to “lovingly but also critically, to tell us where we as a Christian tradition on this island need to strike out in new directions, while also valuing what we have received through succeeding generations”. He continued, by suggesting that the “Church of Ireland must look beyond its own self-interest and its own survival ... (to) look beyond the present into the future to which we believe God is calling us”.

This paper reflects on the Church of Ireland commitment to mission – to carry the message out beyond the confines of itself? It asks what the Church of Ireland believes about mission, what

affects its ability to deliver on this and what changes might encourage its effectiveness?

Ken Gibson (CEO of The Mission to End Leprosy) said, "We are grateful for the commitment of generations within the Church of Ireland to the mission of Christ in our world. Our simple desire is for the wellbeing of the Church and to advance its mission. We offer this paper as a constructive contribution to the conversation now taking place".

Copies can be downloaded free at <http://missionreport.leprosy.ie>

## **Mary, 'Queen of the May' art work and altars in Derry**

Thornhill Ministries, Derry, celebrates Mary, 'Queen of the May' art work and 'May altars'.

"An inspiring opportunity to reflect on Mary's role in the life of Jesus and in our lives too."

Sat 29 Apr - Mon 1 May . 11:00am - 5:00pm  
each day in Thornhill House 121 Culmore Road.  
For more details  
visit [www.thornhillministries.co.uk](http://www.thornhillministries.co.uk) or telephone  
(028)7135 1233

## **Handel's Messiah at St John's Sandymount**

The Occasional Singers will perform Handel's Messiah at St John's, Sandymount, on Saturday April 29 at 7.30 pm.

The Occasional Singers make a speciality of singing the Messiah and the oratorio will be conducted by Robin Moore. Soloists will be Kathleen nic Dhiarmada (Soprano), Amy Luttrell (Contralto), Josh Smith (Tenor) and Tim Shaffrey (Bass) with Colm Byrne (Trumpet) and Charles Pearson (Organ).

Tickets, at €20 each, are available from Eventbrite at [www.eventbrite.ie/e/handels-messiah-tickets-33362921396?aff=ehomecard](http://www.eventbrite.ie/e/handels-messiah-tickets-33362921396?aff=ehomecard) or on the door on the night.

## **Wartburg Choir in Belfast Cathedral**

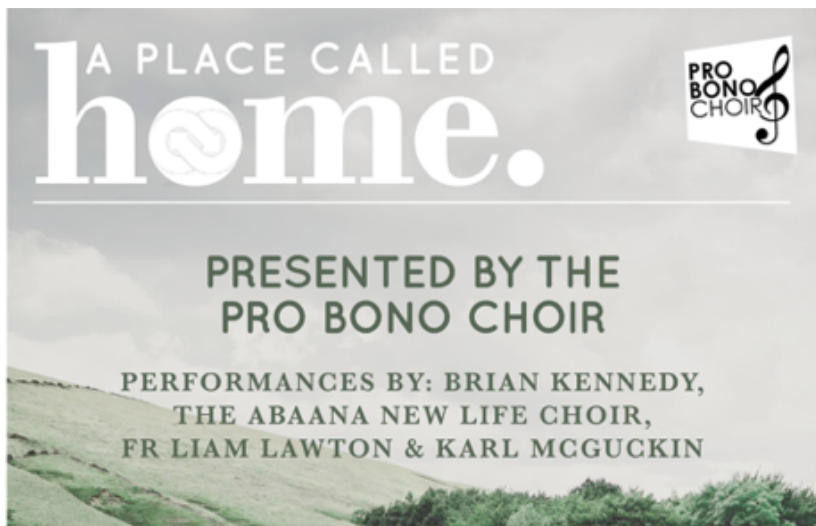
The internationally acclaimed Wartburg Choir performs sacred music from all historical periods and styles and often premieres new works of contemporary composers. Called a "mighty fortress of skill" by the Washington Post, the Wartburg Choir is one of three college musical

ensembles that tour internationally on a triennial basis.

Beyond tours, the choir receives invitations for special appearances in the United States and abroad, most recently to participate in the December 2011 White House Holiday Concert Series.

As part of that trip to Washington, D.C., the choir also sang at the National Cathedral's Bethlehem Prayer Service, which was simulcast worldwide.

The Wartburg Choir comes to Belfast for their first performance - May 15th. 1.00 - 2.00 pm. Entry is free.





## Brian Kennedy & The Pro Bono Choir in concert for Homeless

On May 18 The Pro Bono Choir present "A Place Called Home"—a concert in support of homeless people both here and abroad. The main proceeds from this event in Belfast Cathedral will be going to the The Welcome Organisation, Belfast. Performances will include Brian Kennedy, The Abaana New Life Choir, Liam Lawton Music and Karl McGuckin.. May 18 @ 7:30 pm - 11:00 pm

**See this week's events diary on CNI**

## Today in Christian History, April 25

**April 25, 1214:** Louis IX, king of France and saint, is born. Leader of the Seventh and Eighth Crusades (he died on the latter), he was known for his humility: he wore hair shirts and visited hospitals—where he emptied the bedpans.

**April 25, 1599:** Oliver Cromwell, the Puritan lord protector of England, is born near Cambridge. As lord protector he sought to allow more freedom of religion.

**April 25, 1887:** Radio evangelist Charles E. Fuller, known for his "Old Fashioned Revival Hour" and for cofounding Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California, is born in Los Angeles.

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