



Easter reflection in Narnia with Bishop of Down & Dromore

A reflective event in Narnia, (CS Lewis Square, Newtownards Road, Belfast) with Bishop Harold Miller and anyone who would like to participate.

CS Lewis Square, since it opened earlier in the winter, has been attracting large numbers of visitors to enjoy the thoughtful and spectacular sculptures of some of the characters of the Narnia story, The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe. What better place to re-visit the Easter story of betrayal, sacrifice and new life?

This Saturday, meeting at the wardrobe at Hollywood Arches library, a short meander around the sculptures will be the context for a reflective and prayerful weaving of the two stories. The Bishop of Down and Dromore, Harold Miller, will be involved and will draw us together around the broken-ness of the stone altar, before we turn to view the majesty of Aslan, risen and standing strong across the square. Saturday 15 April 2017 – 12 noon at 'The Wardrobe' Hollywood Arches Library

Date for Ireland's first beatification ceremony confirmed

The date for the beatification ceremony of Blessed John Sullivan elect has been confirmed for Saturday 13 May in St Francis Xavier's

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Church, Gardiner St, Dublin at 11 am. The beatification will be the first ever ceremony of its kind to take place in Ireland.

This Church was chosen because it hosts the remains of Fr John Sullivan SJ in a tomb in the church. The ceremony will be attended by Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, as well as the parish priest of Gardiner Street parish, Fr Gerry Clarke SJ.

John Sullivan was born in Dublin in 1861 to a wealthy Protestant father and Catholic mother. At the turn of the century, while working as a barrister in London, he converted to Catholicism. His reception into the Church was at Farm Street, the centre of London's Jesuit community, and he entered the Jesuit novitiate in 1900. He worked as a teacher in County Kildare and later as a rector on the outskirts of Dublin.

Much of his priestly life was spent in the Jesuit-run Clongowes Wood College, Co. Kildare. In 1960 he was declared a Servant of God. He was declared 'Venerable' by Pope Francis in November 2014. In April 2016 Pope Francis approved a decree that authenticated a miracle attributed to Fr Sullivan, thereby approving his beatification.



The miracle saw a Dubliner, Delia Farnham, make a miraculous recovery from a neck tumour in 1954. Among the other healings attributed to him is one of Michael Collins, nephew of Michael Collins, founder of the Irish Free State in 1928, who was paralysed as a young boy but suddenly walked after Fr Sullivan touched his leg and prayed over him.

Fr Toni Witwer SJ, the General Postulator for the Jesuits who is overseeing the beatification of Fr Sullivan, was in Dublin this week to help with the arrangements. The Austrian Jesuit will assist with the governance matters attendant on the event and continue to work on issues arising from the ultimate canonisation.

Speaking about the forthcoming beatification to Irish Jesuit Communications, he said "The

miracles are coming from ordinary believers. For canonisation, we need another miracle after the beatification, meaning that John Sullivan would be considered as a saint in heaven and for the whole Church”.

Speaking about the communion of saints and their importance to our everyday lives, Fr Toni says “The Church is a Church of the living and the dead; we have a vocation from the beginning of the world and this vocation doesn’t finish with death. And so we pray especially to the saints in times of need and suffering, who have a deep relationship with God and who are known by us”.

Moderator writes to clergy of ‘hope at Easter’

In a letter to Presbyterian ministers this week, to encourage and thank them for brining Christ’s message of new life and hope to those they meet ‘day in and day out’, but especially at Easter, the Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar, also encouraged his colleagues to pray for the current critical political situation in Northern Ireland.

In his letter to those who minister in the Church's 539 congregations across Ireland, Dr. Sellar wrote, "Please continue to lift up in prayer our governments in Dublin and London and those who lead them. At this particular time please especially pray for hope for Northern Ireland's political leaders and their continued engagement in the goal of restoring the Assembly and its institutions."

With little evidence of movement towards agreement and a limited extension to the deadline that has been announced, Dr. Sellar continued, "...it is important to give thanks for all who have worked so hard over the last two decades for peace, remembering what has been achieved and praying that this present opportunity is not lost amongst the politics.

"We also need to be mindful of the most vulnerable in society and particularly the victims and survivors of our past who will be most affected should another deadline pass without agreement - a situation that will also see the loss of an accountable local administration and the resultant inability to deal with so many of the vital day-to-day issues facing society."

Dr. Sellar also encouraged ministers in their own prayers and in meetings and services in the run

up to Easter, to pray for Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, “who will proclaim ‘He is Risen!’ at their own collective peril and personal cost.” The situation the Middle East, with Sunday's bomb attacks on the Coptic Christians in Egypt and last week's developments in the conflict in Syria, including the chemical attack, also formed part of the focus of his letter - as did the ongoing famine, drought and political instability in East Africa and all efforts to bring relief to the suffering of the region's people.

Holy Week sing-along fills Raheny Church

Over eighty choristers from many north Dublin choirs gathered in All Saints' Church, Raheny, yesterday evening (Monday April 10) for a sing-along of pieces from Fauré's Requiem and Vivaldi's Gloria.

They were joined by soloists Rebecca Gilbert, Alice Jorgensen and Tristan Caldwell and were accompanied by Charles Marshall on the organ and a string quartet led by Ciarán Crilly. The event was the brainchild of All Saints' Director of Music, Dr Edward Cetto, who conducted the event.



***Tristan Caldwell, soloist and Teddy Cetto, conductor
at All Saints' Raheny Fauré/Vivaldi Holy Week Sing-
Along***

The musical pieces were interspersed by extracts from Isaiah read by the Rector, the Revd Norman Mc Causland. The event was attended by a large number of parishioners and neighbours.

Holy Thursday Mass on RTE

The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be broadcast on RTE1 Television, today, Thursday April 13

beginning at 4.40pm. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr Eddie Gallagher PP Greencastle and is in association with the Parish of Greencastle, Dean Maguirc College, Carrickmore and Trocaire. The mass also marks the end of this year's Trocaire campaign.

Archbishop to lead flotilla to England's newest Minster



The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, at Holy Trinity Church in Hull.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, will head towards England's largest parish church on a lifeboat next month. He will be joined by a

flotilla of boats from pleasure crafts to police launches for the re-classification of Holy Trinity Church in Hull as Hull Minster. Dr Sentamu will carry with him a lantern lit at All Saint's Church in Hessle, Holy Trinity's mother church, for the historic ceremony on 12 May.

The history of Hull – or Kingston upon Hull, to give it its full name – dates back to the creation of Holy Trinity Church by King Stephen in 1285 in what was then the growing settlement of Wyke. It was intended as a chapel of ease for All Saints. The area became known as the Kings Town upon Hull in 1299.

The Archbishop will travel down the River Humber on board the William Riley, an historic Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) heritage lifeboat for the five-mile journey down the River Humber from Hessle Haven to Hull Marina, with a crew from the RNLI at the oars.

On arrival, Dr Sentamu will join the Bishop of Hull, Alison White, in a procession to the re-vamped Trinity Square, a public space outside the church, for an open-air minster-making service. The lantern will then be taken inside the newly-designated minster where it will be used to light a symbolic candle.

“This will be a fantastic day when we rejoice in the place of Holy Trinity at the heart of the city of Hull by designating it as Hull Minster,” Dr Sentamu said. “To be able to arrive from the Humber, the river which is so much a part of the city’s heritage, will make it that much more special.

“As we celebrate together in this City of Culture year, I pray that Hull Minster will continue to be a place where all are able to encounter God and to know His presence with them in all that they do.”

There is hope in a world beset by problems, Bishop Chillingworth

The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church says “I am humbled by a Lampedusa Cross which I was given in Rome. Lampedusa Crosses were made by a local carpenter on the Italian island of Lampedusa. He used wood from the smashed boats of migrants who had set out on the perilous journey across the Mediterranean from North Africa and foundered on the way. The rough wood of the cross and its flaking paint reminds me of the suffering of the migrants and refugees. In this holy season, I think too of the

continuing suffering of the people of Syria and of a world where what once seemed stable and predictable is no longer so.

“Good Friday is the ultimate story of suffering. All the dark forces of the world came together and bore down upon the innocent and obedient figure of Jesus Christ – arrested, tried, mocked, tortured and crucified.

“But the resurrection of Jesus changed everything. The whispered news that ‘Christ is Risen’ has become the central proclamation of the Church throughout the ages. It is a statement of hope in the power of God to overwhelm sin, pain, suffering and death. This Easter and every Easter Christians proclaim it with joy because the Easter message of hope promises transformation for the world.”

Derry youth choir launches ‘Let it shine’ CD

Bishop McKeown joined the priests of Cappagh parish and a full congregation in Christ the King Church, Strathroy, on Palm Sunday evening, when the youth of the parish hosted an Evening of Prayer and Reflection *on the Stations of the Cross* and the Youth Choir launched their CD, *"Let It Shine - Songs of Faith"*

it was a truly inspiring and beautiful start to Holy Week and huge credit is due to each and every one of the young people involved. The available CDs *fast* ran out and a re-order set in motion.

For further information and to keep up to date with the Youth Choir's activities visit their facebook page: www.facebook.com/christthekingyouthchoir

To secure your copy of the CD, please contact Cappagh Parish Office, Tel 028 8224 3375 or email.

Over 40 schools in England allowed to stop daily Christian worship

More than 40 schools have sought exemptions in the past 18 months from the legal requirement to provide a daily act of Christian worship, with many choosing “non-faith” or “multi-faith” alternatives for the first time.

A total of 46 schools since 2015 have asked to opt out from a daily act of worship that is “wholly or mainly” of a Christian character, a rule that has been in place since 1944.



The rate at which schools are bowing out from the requirement, often criticised by secularists, appears consistent with previous years.

Schools Week has previously reported about 125 schools sought exemptions over the three years up to 2015, which averages about 40 per year.

But Freedom of Information responses from 101 councils show two schools have specifically asked to hold “no-faith” assemblies.

Others got the go-ahead for “multi-faith” assemblies. Previously schools have usually used the exemption to switch to another faith.

The Three Towers pupil referral unit in Wigan was granted exemption on the condition pupils took part in some form of collective worship such as “reflective exercises”.

Atheist groups said the rise of “more inclusive assemblies” proved most schools now felt providing an act of worship from a single religion was “inappropriate” for pupils.

But Nigel Genders, chief education officer at the Church of England, said the low number of schools that chose exemption from Christian worship showed daily collective action had “proved a powerful tool in bringing pupils together, giving them a rare opportunity to pause”.

Moira Band concert for mission project

In July 2017 CMSI is facilitating the visit of a team from LOGIC to Arua in Uganda to experience what life is like for their peers in this part of the world. The area is home to many refugees fleeing the fighting in South Sudan. This concert is to help raise funds for the trip and your support would be much appreciated.

Murley Silver Band is giving a concert on Friday 28th April at 8pm in St John's Parish Centre Moira Tickets £10

All proceeds go towards supporting the LOGIC visit to Uganda in July 2017. To purchase tickets please contact: T: 02892617136

Email: jennifer@moiraparish.org.uk

— CONCERT BY AWARD WINNING —
MURLEY SILVER BAND



FRIDAY 28th APRIL AT 8PM
ST JOHN'S PARISH CENTRE, MOIRA

FOR PURCHASE OF TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT
T: 028 9261 7136
EMAIL: [JENNIFER@MOIRAPARISH.ORG.UK](mailto:jennifer@moiraparish.org.uk)

All proceeds towards supporting the
LOGIC visit to Uganda in July 2017

Light Refreshments



Tickets £10

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Today in Church History

April 13, 655 (traditional date): Martin, pope from 649 to 655, dies in banishment. History remembers him as the last pope venerated as a martyr.

April 13, 1534: Sir Thomas More, Lord Chancellor of England, refuses to take the oath to the English succession. One year later, Henry VIII indicted him for treason and had him beheaded.

April 13, 1598: France's Henry IV signs the Edict of Nantes, granting extensive political rights to the Huguenots (a Protestant group he once belonged to). The Huguenots retained the right to practice their religion until Louis XIV revoked the edict in 1685.

April 13, 1742: Handel's famous oratorio Messiah premieres in Dublin's Fishamble Street Musick Hall and is met with critical praise.

April 13, 1829: In the Emancipation Act, the English Parliament grants freedom of religion to Roman Catholics. Within three weeks, the first Catholic was elected to Parliament.

April 13, 1986: Pope John Paul II visits a Jewish synagogue in Rome, marking the first such visit by a pope in recorded history.

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