

Is Christ divided? Theme of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2014

Is Christian disunity a scandal before God? Or is it something we have grown accustomed to, as though it were a creaky door that we never seem to get around to fixing?

St Paul's words challenge us as we reflect upon this question. To suggest that disunity is something acceptable is declaring that Christ himself is divided – and that really is a scandal!



Churches. We gathered for no other reason than to declare to the world that our disunity is a scandal and that we will go on praying for and working for that unity which is God's



2013 was the year in which churches from all inhabited continents of the world gathered in Korea for the 10th General Assembly of the World Council of

gift to the church and to the world.

The Churches of French Canada have chosen for us a key biblical text of the ecumenical movement and have invited us

Prayer for Today

Lord, Jesus Christ, let me seek you by desiring you, and let me desire you by seeking you. Let me find you by loving you, and love you in finding you. Amen.
St Anselm

to think about what our divisions say to the world and to each other about the Christian faith. They have also suggested that we use the Millennium Goals as a focus for our prayers for the world.

Dates

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and



St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time. To allow for local decision making, the material has only the year on it and the days are denoted by the numbers one to eight, so you can use it at any time of year.

This year CTBI are again continuing its partnership with Christian Aid which has provided Go and Do action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

Resources

The resources for 2014 are available as downloads from the [CTBI resources page](#). There is also an order form to purchase the material in a published format.

<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/657>

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C of I Bishops' Appeal Philippines Update

Bishops' Appeal states it is greatly encouraged by the response to the disaster in the Philippines by Church of Ireland parishes and individuals alike.

Donations will continue to be collected in the coming weeks for immediate needs such as shelter, (tents and tarpaulin) food (rice, mung beans and salt), water (and water purification tablets) and hygiene kits (to prevent the further spread of disease). Once survival needs have been met, later funds will also be directed towards rebuilding homes and trauma counselling.

Although the number of people affected changes daily due to the destruction of communication channels

and infrastructure, currently nearly one million people are homeless and 2.5 million people are in desperate need of food as livelihoods such as crops and boats for fishing were completely destroyed. A further 9.5 million have been affected with loss of water supplies, damaged properties and loss of loved ones.

Initial funds have been released through Christian Aid. Subsequent donations will be split between Christian Aid and Tearfund to expand the geographical areas and partners through which relief is being disseminated. Christian Aid's main focus areas are Iloilo and Baybay whilst Tearfund's main focus area is Samar.

The International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN) recently reported: 'It is not easy to see your people facing one of the

worst pestilence in human history. We watch the news from day one up to now and at least I can say that because the best in humanity is now becoming visible—prayers, medical care, relief goods, cash or in kind donations from all over the world has raised the confidence and courage of our national and local leaders to do their best in this time of great distress and suffering. We would like to take this opportunity also to thank you all for donating—may God bless you more abundantly in return for



It was claimed by the Catholic Reaction Force, a cover name for the Irish National Liberation Army.

The men who died were David Wilson, Harold Browne and Victor Cunningham.

Pastor Bell of Mountain Lodge Pentecostal

sharing the best in you—compassion.'

Please continue to pray: For communities who have yet to be reached; For those destitute and traumatized; For the relief efforts to happen swiftly and to reach those most in need.

Please send donations to: Bishops' Appeal (Philippines) Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6

Darkley attack: Justice will be done, says pastor

A County Armagh pastor has said he believes justice can still be done 30 years after a gun attack in which three members of the church were killed.

BBC - Pastor David Bell was recalling the 1983 attack at Mountain Lodge Pentecostal Church near Darkley.

No-one has been convicted over the attack.

The attack was carried out during a church service in 1983

Church said after the opening hymn there was "what sounded like the sound of pebbles being thrown against a window pane".

"All too quickly we realised the church had become the latest target in the Northern Ireland Troubles," he said.

"Within a short period of time, three people were dead and seven others were injured.

"Those who died were committed Christians. Every anniversary brings its own memories.

"Time, folks say, heals and to some extent it does but we remember the events of that evening when three people who were very, very close to us died very suddenly in our midst."

David Robinson, a parishioner, said the three men who died happened to be at the front door.

"They were there to kill anyone. The three men that got killed just happened to be at the front door. They didn't finish with that. They went outside and up the outside of the building with a machine gun... basically trying to kill everybody inside.

Pastor Bell said it was difficult to go back into the church and they tended to meet in another building.

He added: "We believe that justice lies with God in the end and those who perpetrated the acts on that day will one day give an account to the Lord.

"As far as we are concerned justice will be done, whether it's in this life or in the life to come."

Calls to St Vincent de Paul more than double in three years



As the charity launches its Christmas appeal, it revealed that the cost of providing assistance has risen to more than €40 million.

The Journal.ie - Launching its Christmas Appeal this week, St Vincent de Paul said calls for help to the charity have more than doubled since 2009.

The continuing increase in requests for assistance has translated into growing costs.

According to figures provided at the launch, the cost of providing direct assistance has escalated from €24 million in 2007 to €40 million this year.

During the same six-year-period, SVP has seen the amount it spends helping families with their energy costs triple.

"The bulk of this assistance goes to helping families with food, energy and education costs," said vice president Tom MacSweeney yesterday.

"We depend entirely on donations from the public and corporate donors for this work.

The generosity of the Irish people to SVP over the years has been outstanding.

"Despite their own difficulties there are many individuals and organisations that somehow find something to give to SVP and this generosity is absolutely welcomed and essential for the SVP to support those in great need," he added, referencing this year's appeal theme which is 'We can't do it alone'.

Changing profiles

There has been a radical shift in the profiles of those seeking help from the charity, making their needs varied and complex.

The families are not just those on social welfare, said MacSweeney. They also include people in low-paid employment, the self-employed and people in good employment with debts they cannot handle.

SVP manages 970 social housing units, has 344 emergency beds per night available for the homeless, operates 15



day care centres, 150 shops and many breakfast, homework and revision clubs. See more about the appeal which runs through December and SVP Week from 2-8 December on www.svp.ie.

Limerick farewell to Revd Jane

A large crowd gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral for evensong at 7:30 pm on Sunday 17th to say farewell to the Rev'd Jane Galbraith who has served in Limerick and Killaloe in a variety of capacities for the last 10 years.

Over the last few years Jane has had a special brief in children's ministry and has worked hard to promote a variety of innovative initiatives for this highly important ministry.

Happily Jane is not going too far, she will become associate priest in Tralee, working with the newly appointed Archdeacon, the Ven. Sue Watterson. Her service of welcome there will take place at 7:30 pm on Friday 29th November at St. John's Tralee, so save the date.

Trinity Orchestra Michaelmas Term Concert

Trinity Orchestra is proud to present its annual Michaelmas Term Concert in association with Trinity Fringe Festival, December 3rd at 8pm in Christ Church Cathedral.

Under the baton of conductor Eoghan Cooke and featuring soloist Mairead Lochrie, the orchestra will perform its first major classical concert of the year. As part of this year's programme our ensemble will include the incredible Christ Church organ, presenting a unique opportunity to hear the orchestra accompanied by the organ in one of the most ambient settings in the city.

Performing an exhilarating repertoire including Schubert's Rosamunde Overture, Chopin's Piano Concerto No.2 and the infamous Saint-Saëns 'Organ Symphony', this promises to be a wonderful evening for all in attendance.

Conductor: Eoghan Cooke. Soloist: Mairéad Lochrie

Doors 7.30pm, performance begins 8pm
Tickets will be available at 10 a.m. at the Trinity Orchestra stand in the Arts Block, from November 25th. Adults €10 / Students €5 / Society members €3

<http://www.trinityorchestra.com/>

Armagh organ recital

This Sunday November 24 the Dean Cassidy Memorial Series continues in St Patrick's Cathedral.

The cathedral's assistant organist, Peter Thompson, will present a programme of organ music by Reger, Couperin, Buxtehude, Howells, Vaughan Williams and Guilmant

Saint Patrick's Cathedral, The Hill of Armagh, Vicars' Hill, BT61 7DY Armagh
[Sunday, November 24, 2013](#), 4:15pm until 5:00pm

St Columbanus Weekend - Bangor & Ballyholme

Friday November 22nd will see Bangor Abbey play host to a concert to kick off a weekend of events to celebrate Bangor's most famous Saint, Columbanus.

Headlining the concert is Dana Masters from South Carolina, USA, who has performed for BBC Radio Ulster and BBC Radio 3. Dana will be performing a mixture of jazz, soul classics and gospel interpretations for an evening of music that should be memorable for all who attend this very special celebration.

Bangor Ladies Choir will be in full voice as they perform a set of sacred and secular choral pieces in the familiar setting of Bangor Abbey and will combine with Dana on a number of pieces.

A flavour of "Traditional Irish" music and dance will be on offer from the popular and gifted local Bangor musicians Ards CCÉ & The McClean Family. This group of entertainers have performed at many prestigious music events in France, Spain, Denmark, UK and USA. They have also had the pleasure of playing with celebrated acts such as The Three Irish Tenors, Lúnasa, Beoga and Sharon Shannon. Last year saw the release of their 2nd CD, "The White Dove", which was described by local media as "The Best of Irish Culture".

For concert tickets, priced only £5, and more information on the other events please contact Bangor Tourist Information Centre on 028 9127 0069, tic@northdown.gov.uk or log on to northdowntourism.com

Saturday 23 November

- Kids activities 10am – 1pm

- Lectures on St Columbanus, 12 to 1pm & 1 to 2pm. **FREE.** A light lunch will be available between lectures

Sunday 24th November

A spiritual Journey with Columbanus at **Ballyholme Parish Church** on Sunday 24 November at 6.30 pm. Featuring: Schola Cantorum, St Peter's Cathedral Belfast, and musicians from St Columbanus College. All are welcome.

Finaghy parish BBC broadcast

Sunday Service in St Polycarp's Parish Church, Finaghy, will be broadcast live on BBC Radio Ulster on Sunday November 24.

The Service of Holy Communion, celebrated by the former rector of St Polycarp's, the Rev Clifford Skillen, will begin at 10.15am

Nikolay Khozyainov at Christ Church

Music Network Presents Nikolay Khozyainov, solo piano (Russia) in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin on Saturday 23rd November.

"So loud was the ovation [for Khozyainov] after his playing of Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto that it must have been depressing for any other competitor within earshot." The Irish Times

"Khozyainov proved himself master of the keyboard with playing that not only reached the heart of the score but also

overcame its technical hurdles in a glittering display of virtuosity." The Irish Independent Nikolay Khozyainov, solo piano Irish concert-goers are still talking about the spellbinding technique and supreme artistry displayed by Nikolay Khozyainov while winning last year's Dublin International Piano Competition, and we're delighted to give you the chance to hear this young lion of the keyboard in full flow.

"So loud was the ovation [for Khozyainov] after his playing of Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto that it must have been depressing for any other competitor within earshot." The Irish Times

Hailing from Blagoveshchensk, in the Russian Far East, the 21-year old is one of the most remarkable pianists of his generation. Winner of numerous awards, Khozyainov has already made his recital debut at Carnegie Hall, appeared in concert with the Tokyo Symphony, Warsaw Philharmonic and Sydney Symphony Orchestras while touring Europe, Asia and the USA. Don't be fooled by the shock of blond curls, the boyish charm or the swarm of Facebook fans – here is a performer capable of great maturity and sensitivity, who can convey the freewheeling, rhapsodic intensity of the great Romantic composers to dazzling effect. Prepare to be wowed!

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER, DUBLIN

Christ Church Cathedral 8:00 pm,
€25/€20 includes gala reception
Tel. 01 4750224 or www.musicnetwork.ie

CMS Impact 2013

CMS Ireland's Annual Celebration, IMPACT is an opportunity to hear stories of transformation from the past year and to pray for God's blessing on the year ahead.

This year's event will mark the beginning of a special year for the Society and

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members are delighted that **Archbishop Richard Clarke** will be launching our 200th Anniversary Programme at **IMPACT**. All are welcome at this special evening on 29th November 2013 7.45pm at Belfast Bible College



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