

C of I bishop to be Chair of of Governors of Anglican Centre in Rome

The Governors of the Anglican Centre in Rome have announced the appointment of the Right Reverend Michael Burrows (right), Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, as the Chair of the Board of Governors from 1st January 2019.



Bishop Burrows will succeed the Right Reverend Stephen Platten, former Bishop of Wakefield, and who has served the Anglican Centre in Rome for three decades, the last fifteen years as chair.

December 4, 2018

Bishop Platten said, “It was with great delight that we have received the agreement of Bishop Burrows to become the new Chair of the Anglican Centre. The governors have every confidence that he will lead the centre, which represent all parts of the Anglican Communion, in new, imaginative, effective, and faithful ways. We have every confidence in the future of the ACR under his leadership, and we wish him well, with all our prayerful support.”

Bishop Burrows said, “I’m very honoured to have been invited to become the Chair of the governors of the ACR. For many years I have admired its vital and fruitful work, and I have been personally enriched through participation in courses and events there. The Centre is renowned as a place of learning, hospitality and presence – a veritable ‘embassy’ for Anglicanism in the heart of Rome. It will be a privilege to make a contribution to its governance, and to follow in the footsteps of Bishop Stephen Platten whose total commitment has ensured the well-being and high profile of the ACR over very many years.”

The Anglican Centre in Rome is the home of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s personal representative to the Holy See, and thus works closely with the instruments of unity of the Anglican Communion, the Roman Catholic Church, and other ecumenically minded bodies, for reconciliation, peace-making, and greater, visible, unity among the Christian Churches and all people. The current representative is Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi, former Primate of Burundi. The Centre also works as a place of pilgrimage, education, and encounter for all Anglicans and Episcopalians from around the world: it is the Anglican Communion’s “home in Rome”.

December 4, 2018

Dublin clergy family tell how terminal cancer diagnosis has impacted them



Graham and Rob Jones

The Revd Graham Jones, his wife Louise and his brother the Revd Rob Jones were interviewed on 'Sunday with Miriam' on RTE Radio One on Sunday morning (December 2).

They talked honestly and openly about how Graham's terminal cancer diagnosis has impacted them and how their faith has helped them through a time which Louise

December 4, 2018

described as “devastatingly beautiful” in terms of the strengthening of relationships they have experienced.

When asked how Graham’s faith has helped him he answered: “I don’t want it to sound as if there is a magic wand. There is real suffering. There is real pain. There are real tears. There is heart brokenness. Yet in some way God will allow the joy to come through because of trusting in him... We are safe, we are safe in his arms”.

If you missed the interview you can listen back here.

Graham was ordained to the priesthood on Sunday November 11 in St Catherine’s Church, Thomas Street in Dublin. Rob is the Rector of Rathmines with Harold’s Cross.

Archbishop: anti-semitism is a threat to all religions

The Archbishop of Canterbury has warned that people must be vigilant against anti-Semitism and stressed British Jews are as British as anyone else.

The Most Rev Justin Welby was speaking at an event at Lambeth Palace on Monday commemorating the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht and Kindertransport.

Dr. Welby warned that anti-Semitism can lead to prejudice and discrimination against other religions.

He added: "We come today to remember and give thanks for the Kindertransport and we come to mourn the events of Kristallnacht, but we also come to say 'let us be vigilant'.

December 4, 2018



"We know from that terrible period that if even one religious or ethnic group is targeted, it's a threat to them all."

Kristallnacht, the night of

broken glass, saw thousands of Jews subjected to terror and violence with buildings and synagogues destroyed and vandalised.

Later that month the British Government agreed to allow unaccompanied Jewish children to enter the country.

During the Kindertransport nearly 10,000 Jewish children fleeing central Europe were accepted into the UK.

The Lambeth Palace event was organised by the Council of Christians and Jews, which was founded by the Chief Rabbi Joseph Hertz and Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple in 1942.

Mr Welby extended a hand of friendship to Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and all British Jews.

He added: "What I want to say to him and to all British Jews is that you are as British as anyone else.

December 4, 2018

"It shouldn't need to be said but people have denied it in recent times.

"You're not adopted British, you are British. You're exactly the same as the rest of the country, indistinguishable, and I want to promise on this anniversary that you have a friend here."

Mr Welby said it was the duty of organisations like the CCJ to be "watchmen on the walls" against hatred.

He added: "The lessons of Kristallnacht is what can happen when the watchman on the wall fails to watch adequately.

"The lesson of Kindertransport is what may happen when we seek the common good."

Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis said religion was too often the cause of conflict, instead of encouraging peace.

He added: "Religion exists in this world in order to encourage peace, to indigene harmony under the banner of coexistence, to enable people to co-operate together, leading ultimately to utopia on earth.

"We need to shamefully recognise that far too often religion has been the problem far too often that so many of the great conflicts on earth have been caused by religion, up to and including the Holocaust."

December 4, 2018

Palestrina Choir releases their latest Christmas carols CD - Joy to the World

The Palestrina Choir, Dublin has announced the release of their latest CD, *Joy to the World*, featuring a selection of the world's best-loved Christmas carols and choral music for the festive season.

Recorded in the resplendent acoustic of the choir's home, Dublin's Pro-Cathedral, the album features timeless carols such as *Silent Night*, *The First Nowell*, *Joy to the World*, *Adeste Fideles*, modern compositions by Irish composers, and iconic choral pieces that are instantly evocative of the Christmas season.

The CD follows several acclaimed releases in recent years, most notably their most popular disc, *The Bells of the Angelus*. This CD is a celebration of the most iconic and cherished Christmas pieces of all time.

The Palestrina Choir was founded in 1903 and since then has enjoyed an unbroken tradition of music making of the highest standards in the heart of Dublin's city center. Among the choir's alumni was Ireland's legendary tenor, John Count McCormack, and throughout the decades the choir has remained committed to the vocal training and music education of its boy choristers. The Choir has made an invaluable contribution to Ireland's musical landscape through its support of new Irish compositions, a fact that is underlined on this CD.

December 4, 2018

The Palestrina Choir, a jewel in Ireland's musical life for over one hundred years, have also earned a distinguished reputation internationally, receiving a Papal invitation from the Vatican to sing at mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI, among other prestigious invitations. The Choir enjoys a busy schedule in Ireland and has toured extensively throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States, performing at Carnegie Hall on their most recent American tour. Spring 2019 will see the choir embark on yet another US tour of the mid-west states.

Joy to the World is a treasury of Christmas music spanning almost five centuries. The Palestrina Choir is conducted by Blánaid Murphy, and joined on this CD by organist David Grealy and Dublin Brass. The CD is available from Tower Records, to download on iTunes and from www.palestrinachoirdublin.ie.

Review under way into the future of NI school transport provision

Parents, children, school staff and the wider public are being invited to have their say on the future of the Department of Education's home to school transport policy.

A review of the current policy is under way as the department aims to ensure it is fit for purpose and financially sustainable over the long term.

Around 84,000 pupils in Northern Ireland are currently eligible for transport assistance – approximately 26% of the

December 4, 2018

school population – and the cost of home to school transport provision is in the region of £81 million per year.

“The current home to school transport policy has remained largely unchanged for over 20 years, however, in this very difficult financial climate, we need to seriously consider whether we can continue to do things in the same way,” a department spokesperson said.

“This process of engagement is about asking all stakeholders if they think the current policy is helping the right pupils within the available resources. The review is about gathering ideas and views on the shape of a future policy.

“The review will focus on ensuring a revised policy will deliver value for money. Not all options would necessarily involve a reduction in expenditure or the number of pupils in receipt of home to school transport.”

It's understood any changes to the current policy will have to be approved by a future Stormont minister.

Further information about the review and an online survey can be accessed via the department's website – www.education-ni.gov.uk

Pope Francis: Opening our hearts during Advent to welcome Jesus

In his reflection at the Angelus on the First Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis reminded the faithful that Advent is



not just a time of preparation for Christmas: we are also looking forward to the return of Christ at the end of time, as well as our own, personal encounter with

Jesus at the end of our lives. In these four weeks of Advent, he said, “called to leave a resigned and routine way of living, and to go forth, nurturing hopes and dreams for a new future.”

The Holy Father highlighted two key attitudes that will help us have a good Advent: wakefulness, and prayer. Advent, he said, calls us to “stay awake,” to be vigilant, “looking outside ourselves, enlarging our minds and our hearts to be open to the needs of the people, of our brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world.”

Closely tied to vigilance is the idea of prayer. “It’s a matter of standing up and praying, turning our thoughts and our hearts to Jesus who is about to come,” the Pope explained. “We stand up when we’re expecting someone.” He warned that if we see Christmas only through the lens of consumerism, as a “worldly celebration,” then “Jesus will pass us by, and we will not find Him.” Let us await Jesus, Pope Francis said, “and let us desire to await Him in prayer.”

December 4, 2018

In the Old Testament reading for Sunday, Jeremiah speaks harshly to his people, who are at risk of losing their identity. “We Christians, too,” the Pope said, “risk becoming worldly and losing our identity, indeed, of ‘paganizing’ the Christian style.” And so, he concluded, we stand in need of the Word of God, which proclaims “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made... I will raise up for David a just shoot; He shall do what is right and just in the land” And that just shoot, the Pope said, “is Jesus, it is Jesus who comes whom we await.”

News briefs

Priest-in-Charge introduced at Achonry

The Parish of Achonry entered a new era of service and witness when the Revd Peter Norman was introduced as their Priest-in-Charge at a Service held in St. George’s Church, Tubbercurry, on Sunday 2nd December 2018. Mr Norman was presented by the Archdeacon of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, the Ven Stephen McWhirter. The preacher was the Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, the Rt Revd Patrick Rooke.

Pastoral Visitors commissioned for Armagh parishes

At a special service held on 29th November 2018 (the eve of St Andrew’s Day) in St Columba’s Parish Church, Portadown, 10 new Pastoral Visitors were commissioned by Archbishop Richard Clarke for service in their own parishes. The Visitors are: Elizabeth Atkinson (Lisnadill), Jennifer Pillow (Kildarton), Terry Kennedy, Phyllis Crealey, Helen Clayton (all St Mark’s, Portadown), Noelle Crawford, Liz

December 4, 2018



Pastoral Visitors were commissioned by Archbishop Richard Clarke for service in their own parishes.

Blair, Sharon Yates, Anne Hepburn, and Joyce Anderson (all St Columba's, Portadown).

Canon installed in Kildare

Canon Isaac Delamere was installed as a Canon of St Brigid's cathedral, Kildare, on 2nd December. The preacher was Canon Alastair Graham and the service was conducted by Dean Tim Wright.

New Area Dean for Lecale, Down

Bishop Harold has invited Revd Colin Darling, rector of Killyleagh to be the new Area Dean for Lecale. Colin, who assumed the role on Advent Sunday said: "I'm honoured to be taking on this position following Dean Hull and grateful to the Bishop for inviting me to fulfil the role. I look forward to leading the Lecale Area Deanery where there is a wealth of experience and a strong sense of collegiality."

December 4, 2018

Shoppers' carols in Dublin

Take a break from Christmas shopping in Dublin and come to Christ Church Cathedral to hear local school choirs singing carols every lunchtime from 4th–7th December at 1.30pm. This includes free admission to the cathedral for all 1.15–2.15pm.

Tuesday 4th – Rathdown School Choir

Wednesday 5th – Mount Carmel School Choir

Thursday 6th – Belvedere College Junior Choir

Friday 7th – Mount Sackville Choir

Festival of Flowers, St John's Cathedral, Sligo

St John's Cathedral, Sligo, will host a Festival of Flowers on theme of 'All things bright and beautiful' from 3rd–6th June 2016.

Ballymahon Regional Songs of Praise

On 25th November, St Catherine's Church, Ballymahon, was packed as it hosted a Regional Songs of Praise to 'make a joyful noise to the rock of our Salvation' (Psalm 51:1). The service was organised and led by Ruth Galbraith and Canon Trevor Sullivan from the Ardagh Union who were joined by clergy and parishioners from the Athlone Group of Parishes (Meath and Kildare), the Mullingar Group of Parishes (Meath and Kildare), the Roscommon Group of Parishes (Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh), and priests from Tang and Forgney Churches in the Diocese of Meath as well as from Ballymahon, Killashee, Abbeyshrule and Carrickedmond in the Diocese of Ardagh and

December 4, 2018

Clonmacnoise. It was a congregation transcending dioceses and denominations singing their hearts out praising God.

The Rev William Stacey (Athlone Union of Churches) gave the address. The music for the evening was provided by Lesley Denniston on the keyboard and the Huston Trio (Harry Huston on guitar and Jenny and Mervyn Huston on violin). Ballymahon has recently installed a sound system and the service was an excellent way to mark its first use. It was an uplifting, joyous evening of marvellous singing and it was very special to see such a great response from local parishes and their clergy.

News links

Church of Ireland primate Archbishop Richard Clarke: 'I struggled with faith when my wife died of ...

Belfast Telegraph

Church of Ireland primate Archbishop Richard Clarke: 'I struggled with faith when my wife died of cancer, but I've never been angry with God on my ..

Presbyterian minister: **Church** must do more for people with HIV

BBC News

A Presbyterian minister says the **church** needs to do more to support people living with HIV in Northern **Ireland**. There are more than 1,000 people in ...

Survey: Dramatic shift in Northern **Ireland** public opinion on same sex marriage and abortion

Belfast Telegraph

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

December 4, 2018

Attitudes towards gay marriage, abortion and **religious** relations here have become more positive since the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, according ...

News Briefing: from Britain and Ireland

The Tablet

However, according to the ACP, some dioceses and **religious** orders are operating their own guidelines. The ACP said that one diocese's guidelines ...

Brexit's power-broker: how DUP leader Arlene Foster rose to the top

New Statesman

... is a member of the **Church of Ireland**, not the hard-line Free Presbyterians – and rose to political prominence in ministerial office, not on the streets.

Portlaoise Rector Starts 5 Day Fast For Charity

Midlands103

A Portlaoise **Church of Ireland** Rector is starting a 100 hour fast this evening to raise money for Christian Aid. Peter Tarleton is hoping to fund ...

Celebrations as Christ Church Buncrana re-opens as Buncrana Camera Club provide scenes for 'I ...

Donegal Now

The **Church of Ireland** building on Buncrana's Main Street will re-open for a Christmas concert on Wednesday, December 12, at 7.00pm. Speaking to

Vandalised County Donegal church reopens to the public

BBC News

December 4, 2018

A Protestant church in the County Donegal town of Buncrana forced to ... The **Church of Ireland** congregation makes up about 1% of the population in ...

[The impact of the Troubles on the Republic of Ireland, 1968-79. Boiling Volcano?: review](#)

Irish Times

The impact of the Troubles on the Republic of Ireland, 1968-79. Boiling ... from the **Church of Ireland** Gazette to the Sunday World, he has compiled a ...

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