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**CNI**  
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IRELAND



## **Dublin Black Santa Service celebrates work of local charities**

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The work of charities was celebrated last Sunday February 10, as the proceeds of the 2018 Black Santa Appeal were handed out at St Ann's Church, Dawson Street. Thirteen local charities shared in the €32,000 which was collected outside St Ann's in the run up to Christmas during the annual appeal.

The charities to benefit were: Solas Project, Protestant Aid, the Diocesan Refugee Housing Project, Alice Leahy Trust, the Society of St Vincent de Paul, Peter McVerry Trust, Focus Ireland, Samaritans, Discovery Gospel Choir, Jack



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and Jill Foundation, Laura Lynn Foundation, Here2Help and PACT.

Every cent of the funds donated went directly to the charities with no administration costs deducted. The collectors, headed by the Vicar, Canon David Gillespie and caretaker, Fred Deane, along with the choirs and behind the scenes volunteers give their time free of charge every year to support this great appeal.

The address at the service was given by head of charitable services at Protestant Aid, Geoff Scargill. He thanked all who helped to make the Black Santa Appeal such a significant fundraising event.

“It is 18 years since Canon Tommy Haskins started what is now a tradition in our capital city and close to €600,000 has been raised during that time,” he commented. “Much of this, it has to be said, given in coins and during the coldest time of the year – a wonderful effort to help those who need our help. I can’t think of any other event that would have Lord Mayors, TDs and ex-Presidents visiting and donating.”

Geoff outlined the work of Protestant Aid and started by noting that the name was a little deceptive as the organisation exists to help those in need, no matter what their denomination or ethnicity.

“We are a vibrant, relevant organisation with a story to share. And that story is not just about the statistics, numbers on a page or facts and figures. It is a story of people’s lives. It’s the story of those who generously donate and of those who accept our help. This is a story of many



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tears and occasionally despair but, like the Christian message itself, it is ultimately one of generosity and hope,” he stated.

Protestant Aid was founded in 1836 to help alleviate the horrors of poverty in an Ireland at a time when workhouses and county dispensaries were the only official relief. While much has changed since then, financial distress remains a factor in Irish society. Among PA’s primary activities are grants to alleviate financial distress, annuities for the elderly, heading annuities, education expenses, sheltered housing for over 200 elderly people through the Brabazon Trust/St John’s. Over 1,000 families applied for assistance through PA’s General Grant Scheme alone last year. They distribute about €800,000 each year.

Addressing the representatives of the charities benefiting from Black Santa he said: “I thank God for each one of you and the work you do on behalf of your organisations because poverty is not just about a lack of money or a lack of food. Poverty is also about a lack of hope. So let’s continue together, with God’s help, through the work that all of the organisations here this morning accomplish to provide that hope wrapped with respect, empathy, care and compassion”.

## **Bishop of Clogher consecrated**

Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh spoke at the consecration service of Bishop Lawrence Duffy at Saint Macartan’s Cathedral, Monaghan, on Sunday past.



## **New Bishop of Clogher chooses “God is love” as his motto**

Archbishop Eamon said, “I welcome “this great assembly” of people, priests and religious from across the Diocese of Clogher and especially the bishops emeriti – Joseph Duffy and Liam MacDaid – and with them Monsignor Joseph McGuinness who has faithfully and diligently administered this diocese since Bishop Liam’s retirement.

“I am delighted to welcome Monsignor Larry’s family members and close friends, my co-consecrators His Excellency Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland and Bishop Noel Treanor of Down & Connor and my brother bishops as well as the many priests who will join in concelebrating this Mass. We are grateful for the presence of so many representatives from other

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churches, including Bishop John McDowell and Archbishop Michael Jackson, as well as representatives from civic society. A warm welcome to you all on this special today.

“Over the west door of this splendid cathedral, there is a marble relief of Christ handing the keys to Peter to be shepherd of God’s people, and alongside it are statues of Saint Peter and Saint Paul – the great missionaries of the early Church. It reminds us that our new bishop, Larry, by the laying on of hands, will become both your shepherd and your teacher. Let us pray for him as he begins this new ministry and mission among you.

“And we call also on the great saints of Clogher to pray for him and guide him – Saints Macartan, Tiarnach, Molaise, Davog, Davnet, Fanchea and Molua. It is a great honour for me, in the name of Saint Patrick of Armagh, to join in the ordination of the next successor of Saint Macartan. I welcome you, Monsignor Larry, I wish you every blessing on this special day. Know that you are surrounded with love and prayer on this great occasion.”

## **Magheralin Youth Pastor writes Lent book for young people**

Paul Martin, the Youth Pastor in Magheralin Parish, has recently published a 40-day devotional called ‘Psalm 34 – A Recipe for Faith’.

It’s the third book in his ‘Inspire’ series and explores issues of worry, anxiety and fear from the perspective of David who is on the run from the King and his army.

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With anxiety and other mental health issues on the rise among young people, this is an ideal resource for discovering how the Bible can help to lead us out of destructive thinking and into a place of faith.

Paul says, “Psalm 34 will be an incredible encouragement to you as you find your way through the ups and downs of life. It’s in the busyness of everyday life that God wants to talk to us; where we’re battling fear or when life is stretching us beyond our ability to cope.

“This devotional is written so that you will discover a fresh connection with Father God. By digging deep into His words we are going to be inspired with God’s perspective on those negative fears that don’t do us any good. He wants to lead us into a place of faith, so that we will know what to do when fear comes knocking.”

The new book can be used as a Lent resource by individual young people or by a youth fellowship group.

Find it on Amazon priced £4.99 (paperback)

*Lent 2019 runs from Ash Wednesday 6 March–Saturday 20 April*

## **News briefs**

**+++Primary school teacher needed in Uganda** -The Park family, currently serving at [Kiwoko Hospital](#), Uganda is in urgent need of finding an enthusiastic Primary School teacher who can homeschool their two young sons. If you

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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are retired, wanting to take a gap year, or looking for an opportunity to serve overseas in a Christian community, please contact Stephen and Linda, or contact [personnel@cmsireland.org](mailto:personnel@cmsireland.org) Please note: All applicants will be police checked through Access NI or the Garda Síochána National Vetting Bureau. <https://vimeo.com/313986121>

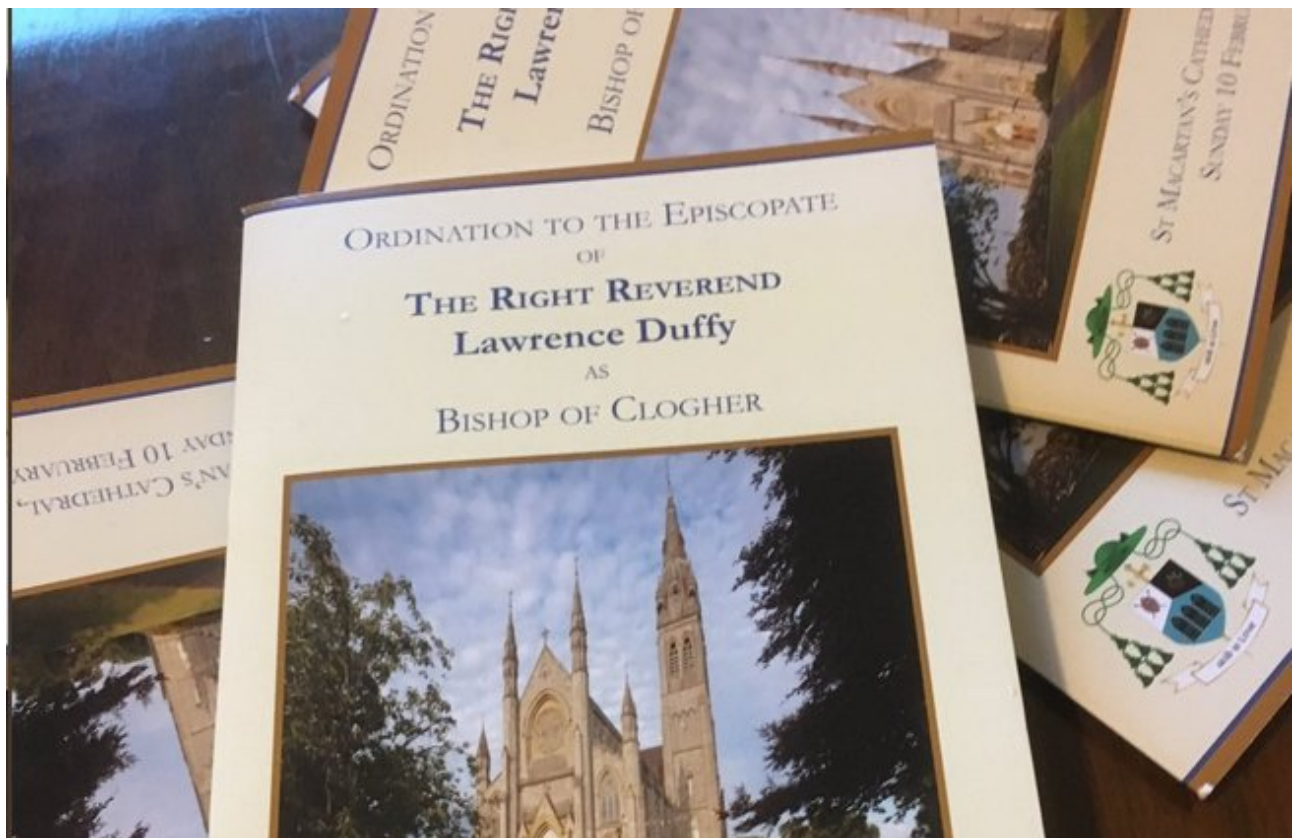
**+++Methodist  
President visits  
Belfast District**

- On Sunday the President took part in Circuit services in Woodvale Methodist Church in the morning and Shankill in the evening. He thanked the Rev Colin Duncan, Society Stewards Winifred Mc Connell and Christine Baker, and everyone who gave him and his wife a warm welcome and special time of sharing.





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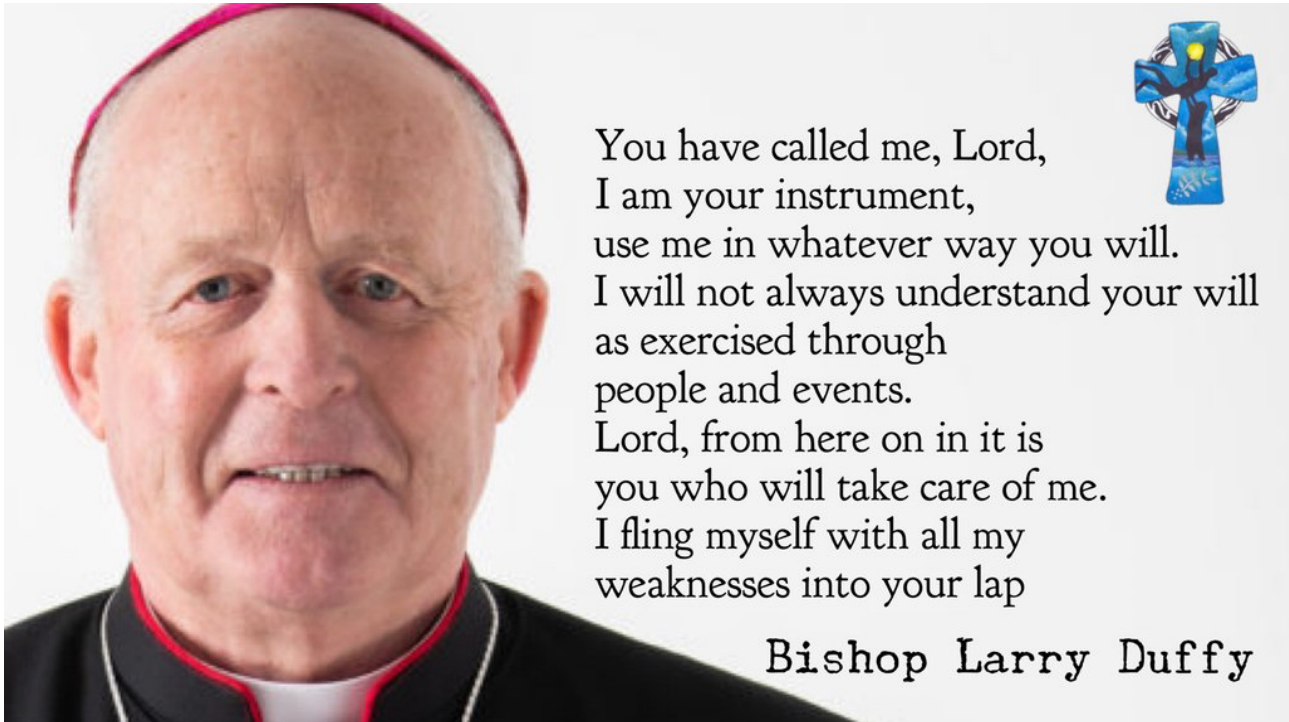


**+++Mrs. Nora Owen to speak at Northridge Centre Cork Conference on 11th April -** Mrs. Nora Owen. Nora Owen is a former Fine Gael politician who served as Minister for Justice from 1994 to 1997 and Deputy Leader of Fine Gael from 1993 to 2001. She has presented Current Affairs Programmes on TV3. Of late she has been an advocate for those with dementia and those who care and has been influential in her recent interviews as she has shared the journey of caring for her husband Brian.

**+++Math & Kildare pilgrim course for Lent -** Many of the parishes across Meath and Kildare will again be completing a Lent Study course during this coming Lent season. They will be using the Pilgrim resource, developed by the Church of England. In 2017, parishes right across the dioceses ran a Lenten Study course. The study used then was also the Pilgrim course – which proved to be very popular. “One of the most encouraging aspects from our previous

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experience of running a Lenten Study course across the dioceses was the sense of doing something in common. The experience proved to be very encouraging for many," said a spokesman.



**+++Dublin retired clergy meet** - the Dublin and Glendalough retired clergy, spouses and widows will meet for lunch today in the Royal Irish Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire. Currently the officers of the Fellowship are Canon John Clarke, the Ven Gordon Linney, Dean Philip Knowles and the Revd Robert Kingston.

**+++Dedication at St Stephen's Millfield, Belfast** - The Very Revd John Bond, formerly Dean of Connor, dedicated new facilities and gifts at a special service in St Stephen's church, Belfast. St Stephen's, Millfield, is united with St Luke's on the Lower Falls and the priest-in-charge is Canon Jim Carson who is also in charge of St Michael's on Craven Street.



**TAMLAGHT O'CRILLY PARISH VINTAGE GROUP**



# BYGONE YEARS Festival

**Fri 28th - Sun 30th June '19**

**Tamlaght O'Crilly Upper Parish Church**  
Upperlands, Maghera

A festival of artefacts and flowers celebrating life  
in rural Mid-Ulster in times past.

Step back in time with unique displays incorporating flower  
arrangements and artefact displays to depict scenes from  
bygone years.

**Opening Times**

Friday 28th June ..... 6pm - 9pm  
Saturday 29th June .... 10am - 5pm  
Sunday 30th June ..... 2 - 5pm  
Closing service ..... 7pm with Tamlaght  
Community Choir

- **Morning Coffee**
- **Lunches**
- **Afternoon Tea**

Groups and Coach Parties  
very welcome - booking  
essential

For more info contact  
**Jean 028 258 22481 or Mary 028 796 42197**

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**+++Clonard Monastery fitting venue for the final**

**4Corners Festival event** - The theme was Towards a Forgiving City reflecting with grace and thanksgiving. There was music and poetry from Jim Deeds, addresses from Canon David Porter of Lambeth Palace and Nicola Brady of the Council of Churches. It was another night of looking at the nature of forgiveness and reaching across the divide.  
<https://4cornersfestival.com>

**+++Sing Ireland** - has announced its 40th International Choral Conducting Summer School from the 4th to 10th August 2019 for conductors, teachers, music students, choral enthusiasts, and musicians.

**+++Payout settlement of child beating by nuns** - A woman who claims she was repeatedly beaten by nuns and forced to bathe in barely diluted disinfectant at a children's home in Belfast is to receive a £50,000 payout. The settlement was announced at the High Court in a case which also involved allegations she was fed food unfit for human consumption. The woman, who is not being identified, sued the Sisters of Nazareth over her treatment while in their care decades ago. Her lawyers claimed she was subjected to assaults, neglect and humiliation at Nazareth House. It was alleged that the woman endured repeated beatings with a leather strap, stick and bunch of keys. Allegations of humiliating her in front of other residents for soiling her bed and making her bathe in "barely diluted liquid disinfectant" were raised. In court, however, the plaintiff's barrister, Patrick Lyttle QC, confirmed the terms of a resolution reached. Her case has been settled for £50,000 plus costs, Mr Justice Maguire was told. There is no admission of liability by the defendants.



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**+++Prayer for the day broadcasts** - Canon Simon Doogan, rector of Ballyholme, has been broadcasting on BBC Radio 4 in the early *Prayer for the Day* slot. [Follow this link](#) to hear Simon share a thought and Prayer for the Day from 2–8 February. (You may have to register/sign in with the BBC to access the recordings).



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**+++Thought for reflection -** C S Lewis - "...but I cannot tell that to this old sinner, and I cannot comfort him either; he has made himself unable to hear my voice. If I spoke to him, he would hear only growlings and roarings. Oh, Adam's son, how cleverly you defend yourself against all that might do you good!" - Aslan

## February 12 in Christian history

**February 12, 1663:** Congregational minister Cotton Mather is born in Boston. The most celebrated New England writer of his day, he was a scientist (whose work included early studies of inoculation), one of the founders of Yale University, and pastor of Boston's Second Church (just as his father, Increase Mather, had been). He also wrote *Wonders of the Invisible World*, a description of the Salem witch trials.

**February 12, 1809:** Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States and author of the Emancipation Proclamation, is born near Hodgenville, Kentucky.

**February 12, 1834:** German theologian and philosopher Friedrich Schleiermacher dies. He made religion a matter of the will, defining it as feeling an absolute dependence on God in works including *On Religion: Speeches to Its Cultured Despisers* (1799).

**February 12, 1865:** Presbyterian minister and militant abolitionist Henry Highland Garnet becomes the first African-American to address the U.S. House of Representatives.

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**February 12, 1915:** Blind hymnwriter Fanny Crosby dies at age 95 after writing more than 8,000 texts.

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