



CNI

Seven Irish missionaries among 84 modern-day martyrs of Korea who may be beatified

Hopes are high that seven Columban priests martyred in Korea will be beatified soon by Pope Francis, but it is unlikely that the Irish missionaries will be formally declared 'Blessed' during the Pontiff's visit to this country for the World Meeting of Families in 2018.

Two years ago, it was widely reported in the Irish media that the seven were among 124 Korean martyrs who were to be beatified by Pope Francis during his visit to the Asian Youth Day gathering in Seoul in August 2014, but unfortunately these reports were mistaken.

"There was some confusion between the announcement in 2014 that 124 martyrs from the 18th and 19th centuries were to be beatified that year and the announcement in 2013 by the



Dalgan Park, Co. Meath, the headquarters of the Columbans where there is a chapel memorial to the 24 Columbans who died violent deaths while on the missions

Korean bishops that they would seek the beatification of 84 modern martyrs who died during the 20th century,” said Fr Cyril Lovett, a former editor of the Far East magazine, a publication that highlights and promotes the

Columban Fathers' activities. "In fact, it is because the Korean bishops are the promoters of this cause that the beatification of the seven Irish Columbans won't take place in Ireland."

The 84 modern-day Korean martyrs were killed by Japanese occupation forces during the Second World War or by Communist forces during the Korean war, when the north invaded the south. Indeed, the first of the Irish Columbans to be martyred, Fr Anthony Collier from Clogherhead, Co Louth, had been placed under house arrest by the Japanese from 1941 to 1945. When he was executed by Communists in 1950, Fr Collier was the first non-Korean to be killed in the Korean War.

The other six Irish martyrs are: Fr James Maginn, who was actually born in America of Irish parents; Fr Patrick Reilly of Drumraney, Co Westmeath; Msgr Pat Brennan, also an American of Irish parents; Fr Thomas Cusack of Liscannor, Co Clare; Fr John O'Brien of Donamon, Co Roscommon; and Fr Francis Canavan of Headford, Galway.

Notably, all seven had the opportunity to flee from the North Korean invasion and knew their lives would be in danger if they remained in their parishes, but all seven chose to remain with their

flock – it is for this reason that they are considered martyrs by the Church in Korea. Mary Kane, a first cousin once removed of Fr Jim Maginn, told CatholicIreland.net: “I know the Koreans hold these men in great esteem.”

At the Columban headquarters in Dalgan Park, Co Meath, there is a memorial in the chapel to the 24 Columbans – 23 priests and one sister (Sr Joan Sawyer) – who died violent deaths while on the missions. “It is hard to say sometimes if someone who is murdered is a martyr or not,” said Fr Lovett. “So we honour all 24 equally. Dalgan Park is open to the public and we regularly get people asking if they can visit the chapel – everyone is welcome to pray there.”

The Korean Church is unusual in that, uniquely, it was first evangelised by lay people, said Fr Lovett. It was a group of nobles visiting China in the 17th century who first came across Christianity and it was they who brought it back to their home country. When a Chinese priest secretly entered the country a dozen years later, he found 4,000 practising Catholics there, none of whom had ever seen a priest!

This Christian community was severely persecuted – their practice of gathering together

in groups to worship, without any class distinctions, was seen as a challenge to the state's hierarchy. More than 10,000 Catholics were martyred in a series of persecutions. In 1984, Pope John Paul II canonised 103 of these martyrs. As a result, Korea is the country with the 4th largest number of saints officially recognised by the Catholic Church. Who knows, some day in the near future the seven Irish Columban priests will be included in that official roll of saints.

For more information about the Columbans and Dalgan Park, visit: <http://www.imu.ie/columban-missionaries-ssc/>.

Former loyalist prisoner turned pastor to give series of church talks

A former member of the Ulster Volunteer Force who became a pastor in England after serving an 11-year sentence in the Maze prison will speak at a number of venues between Saturday, 18th February, and Wednesday, 22nd February. Pastor David 'Packie' Hamilton will be speaking on the theme 'How Healing Comes' at churches including St Anne's Cathedral, St George's Parish Church, Belfast, and Lisburn Cathedral.



Pastor David 'Packie' Hamilton

David was imprisoned in 1978. He had a strong Christian conversion in 1980 which he attributes to the fervent prayers of an elderly lady called Annie Beggs. On his release from prison in 1983, David became a full-time Christian worker, evangelist and preacher, working firstly with Prison Fellowship and Teen Challenge before becoming a pastor of a large independent church in Manchester.

He is now retired and undertakes preaching engagements wherever and whenever called. He

has a repertoire of a rich number of factual stories to tell and brings them alive with his style, which can be very humorous at times. On previous visits to Belfast, many have commented on how they were impacted by David's testimony and preaching. David is the author of *A Cause Worth Living For: My Journey Out of Terrorism*, published in 2008. His appearance in St Anne's Cathedral will be at a Special Service of Healing organised by the Interdenominational Divine Healing Ministries. David's full schedule is as follows:

Lisburn Cathedral (Day of Prayer)
Saturday, 18th February at 11am and 12.30pm

Lisburn Cathedral
Sunday, 19th February at 11am

St George's, High Street, Belfast
Monday, 20th February at 1pm

St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast
Monday 20th February at 8pm

St Finnian's, Cregagh Park, Belfast
Tuesday, 21st February at 8pm

Clonard Monastery
Wednesday, 22nd February, at 8pm

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Some members of the Christ Church Parish team looking happy after their arrival at Entebbe Airport, Uganda

Lisburn church teams deploys safely in Uganda

A 12-strong team from Christ Church Parish, Lisburn, arrived safely in Uganda at the weekend to begin a fortnight of practical mission work at St Apollo School, Kasizi, in the Diocese of Luwero.

This will be the third time a team from the parish has been out to the school with the charity Fields of Life.

The team is made up of the rector of Christ Church, the Rev Paul Dundas, along with Audrey Knowles, Jane Marks, Beth Harris, Beverley Ringland, Roberta Thompson, Janice Thompson, Richard Thompson, Paul Dundas, Raymond Geddis, Gary Knowles and Johnston Boyle.

They travelled from Dublin to Uganda via Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, arriving to a warm welcome in Entebbe Airport on Sunday afternoon, and from there they began the next leg of the journey to St Apollo School.

They were due in Kasizi on Monday and will remain until February 24. During their visit the team will be doing practical work as well as RE lessons on the life of Jesus, sport's days and women's work.

They will attend a diocesan seminar for 60 leaders on Saturday February 18, and team members are hoping to meet up with James and Charles, theological students who are supported by the parish.



Representatives of the charities receiving funding from the 2016 Black Santa Sit Out at St Ann's, Dawson Street, with the Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd John Mann, the Vicar of St Ann's Canon David Gillespie, Assistant Priest the Revd Yvonne Ginnelly and Verger Fred Deane Dean John Mann.

Fifteen charities aided by Dublin Black Santa Sit Out

The proceeds of the 2016 Black Santa Appeal were handed over to representatives of 15 charities who joined the congregation in St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin, on Sunday morning (February 12). A total of €41,000 was

raised during the 2016 sit out outside St Ann's in the 10 days before Christmas.

This year's appeal had to contend with the Luas works on Dawson Street which made it very difficult for those wishing to contribute to get to those collecting. The Vicar, Canon David Gillespie, thanked all those for donating and those at St Ann's who helped out with the appeal. On behalf of the charities, Geoff Scargill of Protestant Aid thanked Canon Gillespie and his team for caring enough to organise the appeal each year and said that their contribution made a huge difference to all the organisations.

The charities to benefit this year were the Solas Project, Protestant Aid, the Diocesan Refugee Project, Alice Leahy Trust, the Society of St Vincent de Paul, Peter McVerry Trust, Salvation Army, Dublin Simon, Samaritans, Brabazon Trust, Dublin Street Pastors, Focus Ireland, Laura Lynn Foundation, Here2Help and Pact.

The preacher at the service was fellow Black Santa, the Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd John Mann. The Black Santa tradition began in St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast. In his sermon he drew on the Old Testament reading [Deuteronomy 30: 15–20]. He said that in the reading Moses recognised the challenges ahead

for the people of Israel as they reached the Promised Land but that ultimately they must make their choices and decisions in the light of the commandments of God. He set before them life and prosperity and death and adversity.

Dean Mann said that the Church had long been concerned with the questions: “How do we translate the very hopes that we have and our daily prayers that flow from them into action that actually changes lives? How do we seek life and prosperity and challenge and confront that which tends to death and adversity?”

The Dean said that the Church has played its part in social action but yet in so many aspects of life today it feels inadequate. He suggested that often the temptation was to avoid confrontation or be frightened by the sheer scale of problems facing society.

“The Black Santa tradition has grown out of this place of decision. The recognition that its desire to support those on the margins and the vulnerable and needy is reflected by society at large. People generally want to help and most of us have our particular charitable concerns, but the advantage of the St Ann’s Black Santa collection is that it supports the range of charities that you see acknowledged on the

service sheet so it allows us to have a little part in a portfolio of charitable support,” he stated.

The Dean added that the Black Santa process was very simple. “We are channels for concern reflected by allowing ourselves to be used as conduits of charitable giving. It works because it fulfils a need, linking human generosity with human compassion,” he said.



Methodist Women Ireland's All-Ireland President Linda McGuffin is pictured (front row, extreme left) with members of Cairnshill MWI with their branch president, Patricia Lamont (front row, right), following the Belfast church's annual MWI service.

Methodist Women Ireland President thanks Cairnshill for fundraising support

MWI All-Ireland President Linda McGuffin was the speaker at the Belfast church's annual MWI service.

Linda spoke to both adults and children on her theme for her term of office – 'God is Able'. She also thanked the ladies for their support of a recent all-Ireland fundraising drive to meet the sanitation and health education needs of women on a tea plantation in Sri Lanka, saying that the sum raised had exceeded the initial target by some £6,000. It is the tradition for many MWI groups to hold their annual service in the spring and the month of March will see Linda speaking at services in Fivemiletown, Lisburn, Portadown and Bangor.

Canon Treasurer installed at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Canon Horace McKinley was installed as Canon Treasurer of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, by Dean William Morton yesterday (Sunday February 12). Canon McKinley, who is Rector of

Whitechurch Parish in Dublin, has been a member of the Chapter of St Patrick's Cathedral for over 26 years having been elected Dublin & Glendalough's representative Canon, the Prebendary of Dunlavin.

Preaching during the service, Canon McKinley said that he had been surprised by his original election to the Chapter, having been nominated by diocesan synod in his absence. He had been delayed on a pastoral visit. However, he said that was "the start of a really happy, fulfilled and unbroken friendship with the cathedral, both as a Chapter member and as an elected clerical member of the Cathedral Board. I have never failed to under-estimate the extent of very real privilege that this particular association has always entailed". Throughout that time, he said, the cathedral had never ceased to fill him with wonder and awe for all involved in its on-going life and witness.

Canon McKinley reflected on the basic aims of St Patrick's Cathedral. He suggested that the ultimate function of the cathedral was the unceasing worship of God. He added that another basic aim of the cathedral was to be a sacred space and place where seekers and

searchers can feel comfortably at home and are encouraged to explore.

“Visitor numbers here are close to half a million annually, but that excludes the number of worshippers or concert attenders. Visitors and the Cathedral form a wholesome working partnership, each marked by both giving and receiving. I’m always partial to St. John’s Gospel account of the call of the first disciples. Jesus’s invitation to them is just three words: ‘Come, and see’. I like to think that those three words constitute this Cathedral’s mission statement – ‘Come, and see. All are welcomed, in an open, grace-filled and non-judgmental spirit,” he stated.

Jonathan Swift was Prebendary of Dunlavin from 1700 until 1713 when he was appointed Dean. Dublin & Glendalough will elect a new diocesan representative in March.

Vivaldi ‘Gloria’ team effort at St Fin Barre’s Cathedral, Cork

St Fin Barre’s Cathedral, Cork, and its Director of Music, Peter Stobart, teamed up with the the Cork International Choral Festival on Saturday,



***St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Director of Music,
rehearses with some of those who took part
in 'Come and Sing'***

11th February for a very special day-long *Come and Sing* event; rehearsing and performing one of history's most magnificent choral works – Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

2017 was the first time for such a collaboration and get-together. Sixty-three singers from all backgrounds came along for the rehearsal and to learn the piece which was then performed that same evening, under the direction of Peter



Peter Stobart (Director of Music, St Fin Barre's Cathedral) with John Fitzpatrick (Cork International Choral Festival) at the Come and Sing' Vivaldi.

Stobart, and with Trevor Selby from Limerick on the organ.

Christian Aid condemns UK government decision on child refugees

The Dubs amendment was passed in May 2016 at the height of the European refugee crisis and

was supposed to ensure that 3,000 lone children were given protection in the UK. The Government has announced the scheme will close after only relocating 350 children.

Commenting on the announcement, Tom Viita, Head of Advocacy at Christian Aid, said:

"Protecting people fleeing their homes is no one country's responsibility – it demands global cooperation. Today's announcement is not only a broken promise to vulnerable children, but a rejection of our international responsibilities.

"After Trump's refugee ban in recent weeks, it is shocking to see the UK sending out another deeply worrying message to the rest of the world. Theresa May and her government need to be pulling Trump up, rather than following him downwards.

"The international community, the UK included, needs to find a fair way of sharing responsibility for people forcibly displaced from their homes. We are experiencing global displacement on a level not seen since the Second World War. Poor countries are hosting most people in dire need and here we are once again, one of the richest countries in the world, attempting to shirk responsibility."

The announcement by the government states that local authorities only have provision to provide housing and care for 350 unaccompanied children. Responding to that claim, Mr. Viita continued: "UK immigration policy is set by Ministers in the Home Office, not local authorities. Passing the buck to them is an abdication of responsibility. The UK needs to play a full role in the international community's response to the refugee crisis and work with other nations to find effective longer-term solutions that honour everybody's human dignity."

Christian Aid works through its local partners around the world to support refugee communities displaced by conflict. In the UK and Europe, they advocate for long-term practical solutions to global displacement, including the resettlement and relocation of refugees, as well as greater investment in addressing the root causes of displacement worldwide.

* Christian Aid <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

* Read the Dubs Amendment [here](#)

* Refugee Council <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/>

Pope Francis: 'Healthcare is not a business'

A nation's healthcare system cannot be run simply as a business because human lives are at stake, Pope Francis said.

"If there is a sector in which the 'throwaway culture' demonstrates its most painful consequences, it is the healthcare sector," the Pope told patients, medical professionals, pastors and volunteers attending a meeting sponsored by the Italian bishops' national office for healthcare ministry.

Anticipating the celebration on February 12 of the World Day of the Sick and marking the 20th anniversary of the bishops' office, the Pope said Catholics obviously give thanks for the advances in medicine and technology that have enabled doctors to cure or provide better care for the sick.

He also praised medical personnel who carry out their work as "ministers of life and participants in the affectionate love of God the creator. Each day their hands touch the suffering body of

Christ, and this is a great honor and a great responsibility,” he said.

But, the Pope said, any public policy or private initiative regarding healthcare that does not make the dignity of the human person its central concern “engenders attitudes that can even lead to exploitation of the misfortune of others. And this is very serious.”

“Indiscriminately adopting a business model in healthcare, instead of optimising resources,” he said, risks treating some of the sick as disposable. “Optimising resources means using them in an ethical way, with solidarity, and not penalising the most fragile.”

Protecting human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death means that “money alone cannot guide political and administrative choices” in healthcare, he said. And the increasing lack of healthcare “among the poorest segments of the population, due to lack of access to care, must leave no one indifferent.”