

February 15, 2019



Inspiration at Northern European Cathedrals' Conference in Dublin



The Northern European Cathedrals' Conference got underway in Dublin on Tuesday evening.

February 15, 2019



The Archbishop of Canterbury hosted a service at Lambeth Palace this week and commissioned Duncan Dormer as the new General Secretary of USPG which works globally with Anglican churches worldwide, tackling poverty, improving health, putting children in school, giving women a voice.

The conference, which is held every two years, is being co-hosted by Christ Church Cathedral and St Patrick's Cathedral and runs until today, Friday.

Over 120 delegates from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Finland as well as from around Ireland, are meeting over these three days. They represent various aspects of cathedral life and their discussions will centre around the main theme 'Cathedral Music: A Gateway to God'.

February 15, 2019



The Big Sing this Saturday 16.Feb.1.30pm at Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral. Learn Part II of Handel's Messiah. All Singers welcome & reading music would be a great asset. Performance at 6.30pm that evening
facebook.com/CorkChoralFest...

The conference opened with a Festal Choral Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral which was sung by the cathedral choirs along with the Christ Church Baroque Ensemble.

The sermon was preached by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, who welcomed all the delegates to the conference. He talked about the thresholds of cathedrals, or liminal spaces, where those entering cross from one world to another.

“The *limen* is the threshold, the place of transition between two worlds, conventionally seen as the world without and the world within. Our faith in God teaches us, and we need to remember this, that there is nowhere God is not. God is

February 15, 2019

within and without, whatever our perspective. Perhaps the question we might take away from this Northern European Cathedral's Conference from right across Europe is this: How can we, together, in the friendships we build in these days, constantly refresh and refurbish the entry-points to our cathedrals as an intentional liminal space?" he said.

He encouraged the congregation to use the liminal spaces they are given on the inside and to seek them out in the world on the outside. "Let us encourage everyone to use and enjoy our cathedrals as thresholds," he concluded.

[You can read the Archbishop's sermon in full here.](#)



Breakfast Meeting

***Mind Body Phenomena
in Health & Wellness***

- David Hegarty



***Being Well and Healthy,
is very often a Frame of Mind.
It's a skill. You can learn the skill.***

**Springfield Hotel, Leixlip
Saturday 16th February 2019
9.30am - 11.30am**

Tickets €8 Available at the door
If possible please email your details to treasurersmudg@gmail.com
For us to have catering numbers, Thank you.

Mothers' Union in Dublin & Glendalough will hold their Breakfast Meeting in the Springfield Hotel in Leixlip this Saturday.

February 15, 2019

The opening lecture was given by the Bishop of Cashel,



International Women's Day

with Poetry Ireland at St Saviour's Church, Rathdrum

Friday 8th March 7.30pm



Feminism Past, Present & Future

Painting Exhibition Our Bodies Ourselves
by Wicklow Women

Poetry Readings Jane Clarke & Jo Shapcott
Shonose & Seanchai
with Wicklow Traveller Women

Poetry readings from ACORN Women
Rathdrum & Croi Rath Naoi
Rathnew Women

Wild Cats Voices in Song
BBH Wicklow Town

Contact Mary Millett 0876440693



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

February 15, 2019

Ferns and Ossory, the Rt Revd Michael Burrows and other speakers for the conference include Dr Kerry Houston of Dublin Institute of Technology Conservatory of Music and Drama, David Bremner of Christ Church Cathedral, Nicholas Carolan of the Irish Traditional Music Archives, Dr Margaret Daly Denton of Trinity College Dublin and the Revd Dr Alan McCormack of Goodenough College in London, who will be the convener.

This evening Archbishop Jackson is hosting a reception in the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin. Tomorrow (Thursday) Choral Evensong in St Patrick's Cathedral will be sung by the combined choirs of St Patrick's and Christ Church at 6pm. This will include excerpts of Handel's Messiah. This will be followed by the conference gala dinner in Christ Church Cathedral. The closing service will take place in Christ Church Cathedral at noon on Friday.

The conference has been organised by the Deans of Christ Church and St Patrick's cathedrals, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne and the Very Revd William Morton and their team.

[Further information is available from the conference website.](#)

Josepha Madigan: Republic's culture minister calls on Catholic Church to ordain women

An Irish government minister who led prayers at a Mass in Dublin last year has called on the Catholic Church to ordain women as priests.

February 15, 2019



Culture minister Josepha Madigan has called on the Catholic Church to ordain women

Culture minister Josepha Madigan said the church should be more open about issues including homosexuality, single parents and the ordination of women.

"What is the church afraid of?" she asked the We Are Church forum in Dublin on Monday night.

Ms Madigan said it should not be a surprise to see a woman on the altar.

"But what happens if the person receiving the calling to the priesthood is a woman?" she said.

"Do we really believe that God would discriminate against her as the Catholic Church does purely based on her gender?"

February 15, 2019

The Fine Gael minister had been due to deliver the same speech at the Mercy International Centre last month but the event was cancelled amid fears of protests.

The Mercy Sisters, who own the venue, warned that Ms Madigan would face "busloads of protesters" if her speech were to go ahead.

In June, Ms Madigan, a leading campaigner for the liberalisation of the Republic's abortion laws, led prayers along with two other women at the Church of St Therese in Mount Merrion, Dublin, after a priest did not show up for the 6pm Saturday Mass.

Her actions and support for the ordination of women later sparked a row after Dublin Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said she had caused distress to parishioners.

The archbishop later apologised for the "unfortunate mistake".

Ms Madigan told the We Are Church forum that she was surprised that her decision to lead prayers was seen as controversial.

"I felt it was important that those who had chosen to attend the church for Mass that evening could partake in prayers as a faith community, even if it was not in the way that they had expected," she said.

She added: "It was claimed that I had crossed a line. It was joked, or erroneously noted, that I had 'said Mass'."

"This is of course not the case at all." Report in the Irish News

February 15, 2019

Protest at Northern Ireland church 'gay cure' film

An LGBT equality group has accused the Presbyterian Church of "bias" ahead of a protest outside a Belfast place of worship which is due to screen a film about a "former homosexual".

The film, *Once Gay: Matthew And Friends*, was *scheduled for screening last night* in Townsend Street Presbyterian Church on Valentine's Day. It has been produced by the Ballynahinch-based Christian group, Core Issues Trust, which last year saw protesters attend its screening of so-called "gay cure" film *Voices Of The Silenced* at Ballynahinch Baptist Church.

The new film features X Factor Malta contestant Matthew Grech, who Core Issues Trust leader Mike Davidson claims "left homosexuality as part of his Christian testimony".

However, LGBT equality group The Rainbow Project, and L&B women's support group Here NI, are organising a protest outside the church on the night of the premiere to "send a clear message to all + people that they are loved as they are".

A spokesperson for The Rainbow Project told the Belfast Telegraph that the group was "disappointed" by Townsend Street Presbyterian Church's decision to screen the film.

"The fact that this film will be shown in isolation from any evidence or information beyond those espoused in the film unfortunately shows the bias of the Church," he stated.

February 15, 2019

"This is particularly difficult following the comments by recently-appointed moderator William Henry stating that the church abhors homophobia.

"This movie is about sharing a singular message, that it is wrong to be gay and in a same-sex relationship. This message is fundamentally homophobic."

The spokesperson said The Rainbow Project "will never allow conversion therapy to go unchallenged" here.

"We seek to send a message to all people, but particularly those who are struggling with their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. You are loved and you are enough," he continued.

"The clearest message to those promoting conversion therapy comes from those who have themselves survived it. It doesn't work and it causes irreparable harm to members of our community."

A spokesperson for Here NI, which is co-organising the protest, said it hoped to "send a message to LGBT+ people of faith, and the community more broadly, that they are loved and welcomed in our society, and that sexual orientation is not something that one can be 'trained' out of".

She stated: "So-called gay conversion therapy is damaging to LGBT+ people as it suggests that sexual orientation is something that is a choice, or something to be 'cured'.

"This is not therapy or counselling, far from it; 'conversion therapy' is actually harmful to LGBT+ people's mental health.

February 15, 2019

"It is disappointing that Townsend Street Presbyterian Church has decided to screen this film which promotes conversion therapy, particularly in light of the recently appointed Presbyterian Moderator William Henry saying that the church 'abhors' homophobia and is 'open and welcome to anyone'.

"The screening of a film endorsing conversion therapy is not conducive to a welcoming environment for LGBT+ parishioners."

However, a spokesperson for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland said that it continues to "reject homophobia".

He stated: "From the outset, as a Church we again affirm that all people are loved, valued and cherished by God and we continue to reject homophobia in all its forms.

"The Church recognises that 'conversion therapy' is both an emotive term and is defined differently by different people.

"However, two things are very clear. Firstly, no 'therapy' of any kind should be undertaken against a person's will. Secondly, where a person chooses to seek help from a counsellor, then it is legitimate for such help to be provided.

"As a Church we believe that God is sovereign and acknowledge that He can change an individual's life and personal circumstances with regards to any situation, as many Christians will readily testify."

He said it was essential that anyone who sought pastoral support "can do so in a safe, loving and caring environment".

February 15, 2019

The spokesperson said the use of church property was a matter for local congregations and not a matter for the Church centrally.

"In this instance, local permission has been given for a particular film to be screened and a protest has been organised against the screening," he added.

"Both, while remaining within the law, are legitimate actions in a free society." - Report by Victoria Leonard in the Belfast Telegraph



Candles of Atonement to remember abuse survivors

Candles of Atonement are to be lit in Cathedrals and parishes in Ireland to mark the Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of abuse

February 15, 2019

Just a week before senior bishops and major religious superiors gather with Pope Francis in Rome to discuss child safeguarding throughout the universal Church, the Bishops of Ireland are asking people to remember and pray for all those who carry with them life long suffering as a result of abuse. February 15th is the annual Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse and this year Candles of Atonement will be lit in Cathedrals and Parishes throughout Ireland.

The Candles, which were recently blessed by the Bishops during a retreat at Knock Shrine in the west of the country, are a symbol of repentance, hope and light in the darkness, says the Archbishop of Armagh, Eamon Martin who will travel to Rome for the upcoming protection of minors meeting.

The Primate of All Ireland also explains that, “in lighting these candles we will bring to mind our brothers and sisters, and their families who have been left with a lifelong suffering as a result of abuse, whose trust was so deeply betrayed and whose faith has been so cruelly tested within the sanctity of the Church by perpetrators of abuse.”

#Pennies4Plastics C of I Lent 2019 programme

Throughout Lent 2019, the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal, Eco-Congregation Ireland and the Representative Church Body (RCB) will be inviting individuals, families, parishes, schools, and Sunday schools and clubs to prayerfully reduce their use of plastic.

February 15, 2019

#Pennies4Plastics is an exciting initiative that celebrates God's Creation, challenges us to make small changes this Lent that help protect this Creation, and raises vital funds for Waste Aid which supports recycling in the Gambia, where many communities have no formal waste management system. It encourages all those taking part to:

1. Get informed about single-use plastic;
2. Get busy making changes (with lots of different ideas);
3. Learn about how plastic waste is being transformed in the Gambia; and
4. Pray for the important environmental issues around waste and plastics.



A resource, full to the brim with everything you need to reduce plastic waste and help others to do the same, is now available (at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/pennies4plastics). This can be downloaded in full or in four different sections covering information, action, giving, and school assemblies and All Age Worship. You can also download labels and attach them to recyclable jars for your Lenten collection.

February 15, 2019

Lydia Monds, Education Advisor with Bishops' Appeal, says: 'As we compiled this resource we learned some startling facts. Eight million tonnes of plastic is ending up in the oceans each year – that's the weight of roughly a billion elephants. Also, Ireland is by far the EU's worst offender when it comes to buying single-use plastics. And in countries where there are no waste management systems, people's health is suffering from the mass burning of plastics whilst their livestock become ill and can die from ingesting plastic. This is not an issue for an enthusiastic few; for Christians who worship the God of all Creation, this is an issue for all of us. Take prayerful action with us this Lent.'

Donations can be made online (at <https://store.ireland.anglican.org/donations>), through a bank lodgement, or by euro or sterling cheque (details for these payment methods are online at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org). Funds donated as part of **#Pennies4Plastics** will be match-funded by Bishops' Appeal and the RCB.

Bishops' Appeal is the Church of Ireland's programme for World Aid and Development and the Representative Church Body is the Church's central trustee body.

Eco-Congregation Ireland is an initiative of the Irish Inter Church Meeting seeking to help Christians to link the environment and their faith; it includes members from the Roman Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church and Religious Society of Friends.

February 15, 2019

February 15 in Christian history

February 15, 1386: Jagiello, king of the Lithuanians, is baptized. His conversion, the condition of an alliance with Poland, marks the end of established paganism in Europe.

February 15, 1631: John Donne, the greatest love poet of the English language and dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, preaches his last sermon titled "Death's Duel." "We celebrate our own funeral with cries, even at our birth," preached the poet, who was seemingly obsessed with the subject for his entire life (32 of his 54 songs and sonnets are about death).

February 15, 1860: Wheaton College (formerly Illinois Institute), one of evangelicalism's top institutions of higher education, is chartered in Illinois.

February 15, 1905: Christian author Lew Wallace dies at age 77. Wallace famous Ben Hur (1880) conceived on a train ride while arguing about Christ's divinity with famous agnostic Robert Ingersoll. It sold more than 300,000 copies in a decade, making him one of the best-selling religious authors of the 1800s.

News links

[Consultation on helping Northern Ireland abuse victims extended by four weeks](#)

Belfast Telegraph

The facilities were run by the state, local authorities, the Catholic Church, the **Church of Ireland** and the children's charity Barnardo's. Press Association.

[Ireland: Candles of Atonement to remember abuse survivors](#)

Vatican News

February 15, 2019

Ireland: Candles of Atonement to remember abuse survivors ... throughout the universal **Church**, the Bishops of **Ireland** are asking people to remember ...

[Irish experience of abuse should inform worldwide Church](#)

The Irish News

WHEN the Irish **News** spoke to Archbishop Eamon Martin at Christmas about the clerical sexual abuse conference which takes place in Rome next ...

[Group singing is 'good for your mental health' says local choir](#)

Dublin Gazette

A Dalkey **choir** is encouraging locals who are interested in singing to get involved with their **choir**, as part of Sing **Ireland**. Organisation Sing **Ireland** is ...

[Pope approves Cardinal Newman's elevation to sainthood](#)

Irish Times

Newman was best known in **Ireland** for his role as the first rector of the ... in recognition of his services to the cause of the Catholic **Church** in England.

[A flourishing United Methodist church considers a way out](#)

Mt. Horeb, a conservative evangelical church in the heart of South Carolina, is one of many congregations considering cutting the cord if the denomination relaxes its LGBT rules. [More from Religion News Service](#)

[Why some young Muslim women are leaning into arranged marriages](#)

Halal dating apps are gaining traction among young Muslims. But dating often comes with its own set of headaches, so many young Muslim women say they are bypassing the drama by leaning into their family's traditions of arranged marriage. [More from Religion News Service](#)

**AN INVITATION
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of CNI**

February 15, 2019

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news magazine...**

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<https://www.facebook.com/Church-News-Ireland-261305103892998/timeline/>

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