



Knock Basilica, Co Mayo, Ireland.

Pope John Paul II Award 10 Year Celebration at Knock Shrine

Calling all Pope John Paul II Award participants –
past and present!

This year, the Pope John Paul II Award is
celebrating its 10th anniversary. To celebrate
these 10 years and the achievements of so many
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participating in and who have achieved the Award, a day of celebration will take place in April at Knock Shrine.

Date: Wednesday, 5th April 2017. Time: 11am – 4pm. Mass at 3pm. Location: Knock Shrine, Co. Mayo, Ireland

All participants past and present in Ireland and the UK are invited to the event along with their parish leaders, school principals and Award leaders. There are some exciting plans and special guests arranged for the day, and participants will be encouraged to get involved in the activities and celebrations.

It is fitting that the 10th anniversary of the Award is celebrated at Knock Shrine where Pope Saint John Paul II visited in 1979. His visit to Ireland from Saturday, 29th September to Monday, 1st October was the first visit by a pope to Ireland.

On Sunday morning, 30th September he celebrated a Youth Mass for 300,000 at Ballybrit racecourse in Galway. It was here that the Pope uttered perhaps the most memorable line of his visit: “Young people of Ireland, I love you”. That afternoon, he travelled to Knock Shrine which he described as “the goal of my journey to Ireland”.

The outdoor Mass at the Shrine was attended by 450,000.

Follow the Award on Twitter [@JohnPauliiAward](https://twitter.com/JohnPauliiAward) to keep up to date on the latest news and event announcements.

Dublin & Glendalough Kids' Summer Camp now booking

The Dublin & Glendalough Kids' Summer Camp takes place this year in the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation from July 3 to 7. The camp provides a great opportunity for children from 4th to 6th Class to explore their faith in a safe and fun environment while having plenty adventures and making new friends.

The Glencree Centre is in Glencree near Enniskerry and the camp costs €165 which covers all food, accommodation, trips and activities. Tuck shop money is all that is required. The camp is open to all those who are finishing 4th Class to 6th Class. Children can be dropped off at 11am on Monday July 3 and collected at 3.30 pm on Friday July 7.

Places must be booked by June 5 2017. The booking form can be downloaded here. It is also



***Dublin &
Glendalough
Kids'
Summer
Camp***

available by contacting Lynn Storey at dublinandglendaloughkidscamp@gmail.com or calling 087-6957061.

The organisers don't want financial obstacles to prevent children from taking part in camp. A limited number of bursaries are available to assist families in need.

Please contact the Revd Abigail Sines on 01-6778099 or abigail@christchurch.ie prior to May 6 for consideration.

Growth in Exploring Ministry in Down & Dromore

A record 20 people from across the diocese are now attending the Exploring Ministry group –an informal gathering that seeks to explore ministry options for people with an emphasis on the ordained ministry.

This group, under the leadership of the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Rev. Adrian Green, meets every 6–7 weeks to explore different aspects of church life, discuss guidance and pathways for ordained ministry and pray for each other. The most recent of these, held in Church House, looked at the area of encouraging leadership in the church body.

The Exploring Ministry group doesn't presuppose that those attending will end up on a pathway to ordination but does help people to discern this. As such it is an important group for those that are still considering whether ordination may be a calling upon their life. It's designed to be informal and supportive so that those attending might discern God's call better – whether that be to ordination or another type of ministry.

If you would like to come along to any of the meetings then please contact the Director of Ordinands, Rev. Adrian Green for details of the next meeting.

For a leaflet on Exploring Ministry please [click here](#)

Catholic Primary Schools Management responds to Irish Curriculum Council's consultation report on Religions and Beliefs

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) recently engaged in a public consultation in relation to ERB and Ethics. Along with 172 other organisations and individuals, the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association took part in the consultation.

CPSMA in a statement says - it did so in the context of valuing the current provision for Religious Education in Catholic schools; of respecting the rights of parents who wish to have faith based education for their children; of developing an ever deeper sense of care for all pupils and of supporting schools in living out their ethos.

The NCCA's final report *Consultation on the proposals for a curriculum in Education about Religions and Beliefs (ERB) and Ethics*, published yesterday, reaches a number of key conclusions:

- that the issues of “curriculum overload and time constraints” in primary schools are significant;
- while aspects of the proposals on ERB and Ethics received some support, there was little overall appetite among teachers for the introduction of ERB and Ethics as proposed. Teachers acknowledged current very good inclusive practices in their schools; and named the challenges presented by the proposals in terms of the role of the teacher and the age appropriateness of ERB and Ethics as outlined in the consultation documents;
- critically, much of what was being proposed by ERB and Ethics is already covered in the existing Religious Education curriculum of Catholic primary schools and in the primary schools of some other patrons. In addition, other important aspects of the proposed ERB and Ethics curriculum are already being covered in all schools through the NCCA's Social

Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum; and,

- Parents, teachers and patrons across a number of different school types identified a concern which the report acknowledges the approach proposed to ERB and Ethics could undermine the ethos of faith schools.

Finally, from a students' perspective, many denominations and others voiced concern that primary school children would be receiving mixed and conflicting messages in relation to what was being taught in their Religious Education class and in any subject area called ERB and Ethics.

CPSMA also feels that ERB and Ethics is in fact misnamed and might more appropriately be called World Views Education.

CPSMA states it will continue to engage in dialogue with the NCCA in an open and positive manner in the interest of all the children attending its schools.

Cathedral shortlisted in 2017 Irish Tourism awards

Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, was among the shortlisted nominees at the Irish Tourism



Cathedral Administrator Gavan Woods, Marketing and Events Officer Clarissa Delap, and Eoghan O'Mara Walsh, Chief Executive of ITIC

Industry Awards, which took place earlier this month.

Designed with the intention of rewarding innovation and excellence in tourism, 14 winners were selected from approximately 250 entries. Saint Patrick's Cathedral was a finalist in the category of Best Cultural Experience (over 100,000 people), which was won on the night by GPO Witness History.

The other finalists were Kilmainham Gaol, Kylemore Abbey, and the House of Waterford

Crystal. The cathedral was recognised for its continual commitment to visitor experience.



C of I appoints Human Resources manager

The C of I's Representative Church Body has appointed Mary-Rose McLoughlin to the new position of Senior Human Resources Manager. Reporting directly to David Ritchie, Chief Officer and Secretary General, Mary-Rose will be based in Church House Dublin and is due to take up the role in early March.

Mary-Rose has extensive human resources management experience in both the public and private sectors in Ireland and abroad. She has held roles covering organisational development,

change management, recruitment and selection, training, internal communications, child protection and general human resources management. Mary-Rose has over 15 years' human resources experience working for organisations such as Schlumberger, GE Finance and most recently Bus Éireann. She has a degree in English and History, a postgraduate diploma in Law and a Master's degree in Human Resources from the Smurfit Business School.

The role of Senior Human Resources Manager will be primarily focused on the development of the central Church organisation, and will also be involved in the development of people management resources for the wider Church.

Presbyterian women missionaries shortlisted for Scotland's Hall of Fame

Two Presbyterian missionaries are in the running to become the first woman to be celebrated at a major landmark museum.

Jane Haining or Mary Slessor - two of the most inspirational, compassionate and determined



L-R Jane Haining and Mary Slessor

Scots who ever lived - could soon be immortalised as a figurehead in the Hall of Heroes at the National Wallace Monument near Stirling.

They are among a shortlist of 14 “remarkable” women who have shaped and made a difference to Scotland's story through art, culture, sport, medicine, science and public life.

The candidates span across the centuries but only one will be chosen via an online public vote to take pride of place in the museum, which was established in 1886 with the unveiling of marble busts of Robert Burns and King Robert the Bruce.

Miss Haining was the matron at the Scottish Mission boarding school – which had Christian and Jewish pupils – in Budapest, Hungary between 1932-44.

After the Second World War broke out, she repeatedly refused to give up her post and return to Scotland, writing “if these children need me in days of sunshine, how much more do they need me in days of darkness.”

Miss Haining was arrested by the Gestapo on eight trumped up espionage charges against Germany after she was discovered looking after Jewish girls.

She was sent to prison and eventually taken to the Auschwitz Birkenau extermination camp in Nazi occupied Poland, where she died a slave labourer in July 1944 at the age of 47.

Miss Haining was born on a farm near the village of Dunscore in Dumfriesshire in 1897 and plans are afoot to honour her in a new heritage centre inside the parish church. She has relatives living in Northern Ireland.

Mary Slessor (1848-1915) was a Dundee mill worker and was inspired by the legendary explorer, Dr David Livingstone, to work as a

missionary in Calabar, Nigeria in Western Africa in 1876.

Despite several bouts of illness and constant danger, she lived with the tribes, learned their language, and traditions, earning their respect and putting an end to some barbaric practises, such as the killing of twins.

Ms Slessor, the first woman honoured on a Scottish banknote (Clydesdale Bank £10 note), adopted many Nigerian children, particularly twins, who had been left to die.

When Southern Nigeria became a British Protectorate, she became the first ever female Magistrate in the British Empire and a skilful diplomatic emissary.

Ms Slessor has historical links to The Steeple Church in Dundee where a bronze plaque to commemorate her work was installed in 2015.

Meath & Kildare parishes on Pilgrim course for Lent

Every parish in the dioceses will be completing a Lenten Study course. Pilgrim is a major teaching and discipleship resource developed by The



Church of England. It has been successfully used by parishes in the Church of Ireland.

It aims to help every local church create a place where people can explore the Christian faith together and see how it can be lived out each day.

Pilgrim takes a different approach to other Christian programmes. It approaches the great issues of faith not through persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion with a group of fellow travellers.

Pilgrim is comprised of two stages: the Follow stage for those very new to faith, and the Grow stage for those who want to go further. Each stage contains four short six-session courses which focus on a major theme of Christian life.

+++ Churches Together Lent course - For those still looking for Lent study material this

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year, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland are offering a Lent resource that explores how Christian faith has been deepened and enriched by encounters with people of different religions. The course was written by the Methodist-United Reformed Church Inter Faith Reference Group and can be downloaded here ctbi.org.uk/lent-course-2017/

UK study suggests parishes are “stewards” not “owners” of their buildings

The Centre for Theology & Community conducted a study in the UK that determined that church buildings of all denominations were underused to the tune of millions of dollars annually. The research broke down to £64,000 per church building per year that the local congregations were forfeiting with the underuse of the buildings.

The study pointed out to churches that they were sitting on hugely under-used assets that could be turned around to extend both the income and the mission of the congregation.

The study used the UK city of Islington to do the research. A city with 85 churches where 62 of the congregations own their buildings. Church buildings often consist of a worship space, a large hall and rooms to accommodate smaller meetings. Most of the buildings did gain some annual rent income from letting out the use of their building, but the study determined that the congregations could bring in 5 times the amount with better stewardship of their asset. The weekly attendance of the 85 churches amounted to only 8% of the Islington population. Better stewardship of their assets would increase the mission of the congregations and bring many more local folks into contact with these churches.

After the release of the study, the Church of England's Lead Bishop for cathedrals and church buildings, Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Revd Dr John Inge said, "Church buildings should never be silent mausoleums but always vibrant centers of service at the heart of their local community."

In the Afterward to the report on the study, the Rt Revd Ric Thorpe, Bishop of Islington wrote, "Most churches don't have building managers. They cannot afford them. That is why this report is not just helpful in highlighting the huge

opportunity for using buildings more effectively for mission, but also hopeful because it points towards a very practical solution.”

Food for thought about the use of buildings by Irish churches?



Pope Francis has faced increasing criticism from conservatives in the church. Senior cardinals from across the world have spoken up in defence of the pontiff.

Senior Catholic Cardinals defend Pope Francis after attacks from Conservatives

Senior cardinals in the Roman Catholic Church have defended Pope Francis following recent attacks on the pontiff from anonymous conservatives.

Nine cardinals from across the world issued a joint statement on Monday, **RNS reports**. The statement expressed 'full support for the Pope's work' and 'full backing for him and his teachings'. The cardinals were from Italy, Chile, Austria, India, Germany, Congo, the United States, Australia and Honduras.

Their statement added that the show of support was coming 'in light of recent events'. Vatican sources said this was a direct reference to the attacks that recently been made against Pope Francis.

Francis' **increasingly vocal critics** take issue with what they see as liberalising positions on divorce, sexuality, climate change, refugees and most recently his side-lining of a senior cleric in the **Knights of Malta controversy**.

This week Francis was **trolled** by a 'fake news' edition of the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*, which was sent to Vatican priests, bishops, cardinals and journalists. The mock-up front page contained a fake reply by Pope Francis to his critics. Many conservatives felt his

exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* seemed to permit a liberalising on the Church's position of denying communion to divorcees.

On February 4, posters appeared **across Rome** criticising the pontiff. They challenged the Pope for his involvement in what it called 'the decapitation of the Knights of Malta'. The posters featured a mocking title asking Francis 'Where's your mercy?', in reference to the theme that has largely dominated Francis' papal ministry.

News briefs & Upcoming events

+++ A Night at the Musicals - a fund raiser for Youth Link: NI & Fields of Life fund raiser coming in May - at St John's Presbyterian Church, Newtownbreda, Belfast. See - <http://www.youthlink.org.uk/musicals/>

+++ Logic instructor training programme - The Instructor Training Programme is a faith based initiative that funds and develops leaders and young people (aged 17+) through an exciting range of skills and qualifications in outdoor leadership. If you are passionate about leading outdoor activities and encouraging young people in their faith then this incredible opportunity could be for you. For more

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information and an application form contact Matt Peach (LOGIC Director) on matt@logiccafe.org

+++ Belfast Voice for Life - RSCM Ireland Voice for Life taster session will be held on February 18 at 10:00 am - 12:00 pm In the Heyn Hall, St Mark's, Dundela

+++ European Youth Secretary sought - EYCE ([Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe](#)) is looking for a new full-time General Secretary. The General Secretary is the principal administrator of EYCE and working in the office in Brussels together with up to two volunteers. His or her tasks are communication, administration, fundraising and development of the program. The general secretary is working closely together with the Executive Committee. Are you an organisational talent? Do you enjoy working in an international surrounding? Are you not afraid of numbers and budgets? Then this might be for you! Check out [here](#) for more information and then apply! Deadline for Applications is 5 March 2017. Possible start date is 1 May 2017.

+++ News editor for Anglican news - A former BBC World Service journalist, Bernadette Kehoe, has taken over as the new editor of the Anglican Communion News Service. Kehoe succeeds

Gavin Drake who had been interim editor since late 2015.

+++ Damning report on child sex abuse in Australia - A commission examining allegations of child sexual abuse in Australia has delivered a damning verdict on a system that enabled a culture of abuse to flourish. The report by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse comes after public hearings into how the Church of England's Boys' Society (CEBS) and the Anglican dioceses of Tasmania, Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney dealt with claims of abuse.

+++ Jerusalem bishop criticises Trump - Archbishop Mouneer Hanna Anis, Primate of the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, has described President Trump's decision to restrict entry to the United States from seven Muslim-majority nations as a "naive" solution based on "generalisation and discrimination."

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