



Cork Guild of Lay Ministry meets

Cork, Cloyne and Ross Guild of Lay Ministry met with Precentor of Durham Cathedral, left.

On Saturday 9th February, the Guild of Lay Ministry of the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross met in St

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Lappan's Church, Little Island, County Cork. The meeting began with a celebration of the Eucharist which was celebrated by the Chaplain of the Guild, the Rev Paul Arbuthnot.

After the Eucharist, Canon Michael Hampel, Vice Dean and Precentor of Durham Cathedral, led the guild in a workshop on leading public worship. Canon Hampel spoke of his experiences of leading worship throughout his ministry, and encouraged the guild to lead worship with both authority and warmth, as well with solemnity and joy.

He also spoke of the need to lead worship with confidence, but in an engaging fashion. The morning concluded with a hearty lunch at Cork Golf Club. The next day, Canon Hampel was the guest preacher at the Sunday services in Cobh and Glanmire Union of Parishes. Canon Michael Hampel addresses the Guild of Lay Ministry.

Lent and Brexit in Belfast

Belfast Cathedral invites the public, politicians, business people, students and anyone with an interest in public theology to a series of five lunchtime events focused on Brexit during Lent.

Wednesdays in Lent is a collaboration between the Cathedral and the Corrymeela Community. The programme, entitled 'Theology in the City – Brexit and the Book of Ruth' will take place in St Anne's each Wednesday for five weeks from March 13.

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The talk and discussion will run from 1.05pm-1.50pm. Attendees are also invited for Holy Communion (12pm-12.30pm) and refreshments from 12.30pm, or are welcome to bring their own lunch.

This series is facilitated by Glenn Jordan from Corrymeela. Session topics are as follows:

March 13 Ruth and the Law

The biblical book of Ruth concludes with an obscure legal procedure which extends the full protections of the Hebrew law to the foreigner Ruth, and it does it in response to the kindness of this stranger. In this gathering we will look at the liturgical setting of the book in Jewish tradition and in turn the importance of kindness in the Brexit debate.

March 20 Crossroads Decisions

The book of Ruth instantly pitches us into famine and dislocation. It challenges our stereotypes and invites the reader to consider a new understanding of community based on character and relationship rather than blood and ethnicity. What new possibilities of national self-understanding are open to us in the Brexit debate, and what dangers might lurk there?

March 27 The Challenge of the Migrant

Chapter 2 of the book introduces us to the fragile lives of those who are poor and to the potential dangers that face migrant workers. By looking at the possible origin of the book we might hear a counter-narrative to the one most often told about strangers. What counter narratives exist as we stand on the cusp of major change?

April 3 Who is Family?

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In chapter three there are strange goings on that bear the whiff of scandal, and we are face to face with the lengths that vulnerable women have to go to to gain some security. But it also challenges us as to the nature of family, belonging and kinship. Brexit has placed a strain on these elements of our lives together on these islands. How do we navigate the complexity?

April 10 The Political importance of Compassion

The elaborate legal procedure in chapter 4 may seem archaic but it hides a radical approach to the issues of land, ownership, identity and relationships. It also highlights the social importance of compassion. How do we ensure kindness and compassion are part of the national and international reconciliation process after March 29th?

March will be a time of reflection and journeys at Christ Church Cathedral.

The spring film series revolves around a theme of Journeys and begins March 4th. Cathedral Nights resumes with a Creative Lenten Reflection Programme.

Church urged to reach out to unmarried Catholic families

The Church in Ireland must do more to reach out to Catholics who feel themselves on the margins and recognise that God is still present in families where the parents are not married, Ireland's newest bishop has said.



Speaking after his ordination in Monaghan's St Macartan's Cathedral, Bishop Larry Duffy of Clogher said that in over four decades of priesthood he has learned that God has an openness to people that is often much greater than our limited vision.

"I enjoy people, and even if their story is not the regular one, Church-wise, I still enjoy meeting them," he said. "I think God has a place for a lot of us – he'll reach out much wider than we might reach."

Echoing Pope Francis, Bishop Duffy praised the deep and profoundly Christian love that he experiences present among all sorts of families, describing this as inspirational.

"In parishes I meet people who are extraordinary in terms of their generosity, in terms of how they care for family," he said. "I'm thinking of one family I've met where there are 10 children, and there's just a lovely atmosphere in the house. They're not married, but there's a lot of Christianity there, I think."

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“I think of others who look after people with special needs, who look after aged parents,” he said, continuing, “I couldn’t do what they do, and I’m inspired by what they do and just how they cope with life.”

Having concluded his initial address as bishop with a reminder that Christ is someone who is “not so much interested in past sin as in the grace of the present moment”, and who never gives up on people, Dr Duffy said that while he sees his ministry as one of healing, he believes there is a general call towards healing in the Church in Ireland.

“People are a gift – many of us are hurt, many of us can be damaged, I suppose, so to reach out to one another, they’ll also heal me,” he said. “That’s not a one-way street. I have need of being accompanied too.”

Pope wants prayer focus on protection of minors in the Church

Pope Francis, following the recitation of the Angelus prayer on Sunday, focused his attention on “the protection of minors in the Church” meeting, to be held in the Vatican from 21 to 24 February 2019.

The Pope said that all the Presidents of all the Episcopal Conferences would be there and he invited those present in St Peter’s Square to pray for the meeting, which the Pontiff said, he wanted “as an act of strong pastoral responsibility in the face of an urgent challenge of our time.”

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The February Meeting will include plenary sessions, working groups, moments of common prayer, listening to testimonies, a penitential liturgy, and a final Eucharistic celebration.

Pope Francis will be present for the entire duration of the Meeting, and has entrusted Fr. Federico Lombardi SJ, with the task of moderating the Plenary sessions.

According to an earlier communication from the Holy See Press Office regarding the upcoming summit: “the goal is that all of the Bishops clearly understand what they need to do to prevent and combat the worldwide problem of the sexual abuse of minors.

Pope Francis knows that a global problem can only be resolved with a global response. The Pope wants it to be an assembly of Pastors, not an academic conference – a meeting characterized by prayer and discernment, a catechetical and working gathering.”

The meeting will include a penitential liturgy February 23rd and a closing Mass February 24th.

News briefs

+++ 'Live Issue' Country Gospel Concert - on 29th March in the Theatre at the Mill, Mossley. This concert is being organised by Kilbride Parish Church. If you would like to buy tickets just follow this link to the Theatre at the Mill website to order them on-line - <https://theatreatthemill.ticketsolve.com/shows/873598990>
Alternatively call the box office on 028 9034 0202 or visit the theatre in person. Tickets are £12.00 each.



+++Presentation to new children's worker - Photo above - The parish and rector of St Paul's Lisburn, the Rev Arthur Young, have congratulated parishioner Lynn Adams on her new role as Children's and Families Worker in Glenavy Parish. In church on Sunday February 17, Arthur made a presentation to Lynn, who is very involved with St Paul's Sunday School and Church Lads' Brigade, to wish her well in her new job.

+++Top tips on church use of social media - With Lent and Easter coming up, have you considered how you could make the most of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to promote your services and events? In this week's C of E's Labs Learning blog they share their top tips: bit.ly/2BBDBTw

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+++ Pope John Paul II awards - Bishop Donal McKeown of Derry presented students from St Cecilia's College with their Pope John Paul II awards as part of a celebration night for schools across the diocese.

+++St Patrick's Friends medallist - Congratulations to Caoimhe Griffin-Hayes of Schola Patricii, the senior girls' choir at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, who has been awarded the Friends' Medal for 2018. It was presented by Canon Charles Mullen, at Evensong recently. A copy of the Oxford Companion to Music was also presented on behalf of the Friends. The Organist and Assistant Master of the Choristers, Mr David Leigh, and the Dean, wished Caoimhe all the very best in her musical future and hope that music will continue to play an important and enjoyable role in her life.

+++ Toccata concert in Enniskillen - Toccata internationally acclaimed performers will be giving a concert in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskilli on Thursday 21st February – at 7.30pm. Tickets £10.

+++Mothers' Union members in Kenya - have been inspired to challenge social practices such as child marriage. They're speaking up about the harm this causes, as well as the associated gender based violence, which is still common in many parts of the country. mothersunion.org/news/challengi...

+++ Hymns of Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander - An evening of praise with the hymns of Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen . Sunday 10th March 2019 at 7.00pm

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+++C of I clerical vacancy - Clifden (Dioceses of Tuam, Killala & Achonry): The Omev Group of Parishes, Clifden, seeks to appoint a Priest-in-Charge (part-time) for this group of three small parishes in the heart of Connemara. Closing date for applications – Monday 1st April 2019. Full details and profiles from: The Diocesan Secretary, Mrs Heather Pope, 11 Ros Ard, Cappagh Road, Barna, Co. Galway (secretary@tuam.anglican.org)

Today in Christian History

February 19, 843: Empress Theodora reinstates icons once and for all in the Eastern churches, effectively ending the medieval iconoclastic controversy. A council in 787 had allowed the veneration of icons, but opponents of images still controlled most of the government and much of the church leadership. The controversy continued, however, and was one of the reasons for the Great Schism between Catholics and the Orthodox in 1054.

February 19, 1377: John Wycliffe stands trial in London's St. Paul's Cathedral for his criticism of the church. He argued against the sale of indulgences, the worship of saints, the veneration of relics, the "emptiness" of some church traditions, and the indolence of clerics. In spite of five papal bulls ordering his arrest, he was never convicted as a heretic.

February 19, 1401: William Sawtrey, an English priest who followed the teachings of John Wycliffe, is burned for heresy, becoming the first "Lollard" (critic of the church) martyr in England.

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February 19, 1473: Astronomer and cleric Nicolaus Copernicus, whose "heliocentric" concept of the solar system became the foundation of modern astronomy, is born in Poland. Both Martin Luther and the Roman Catholic hierarchy condemned the theory (his revolutionary book was banned until 1758), but Copernicus remained a faithful member of the Catholic Church. He was even a member of the clergy at Frauenburg Cathedral, where his uncle was bishop. "[It is our] loving duty to seek the truth in all things, in so far as God has granted that to human reason," he wrote.

February 19, 1569: Miles Coverdale, translator and publisher of the first complete English Bible, dies. Parts of his Bible were revisions of Tyndale's, but unlike his predecessor (with whom he once worked), he included no contentious prefaces or notes; instead, he penned an obsequious dedication to the king.

February 19, 1812: Congregational missionaries Adoniram and Ann Judson set sail from Massachusetts for Calcutta, India. From there, they went to Burma and became two of the most famous American missionaries of their day.

News links

Crimes of the IRA laid bare online to 'combat twisted narrative'

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/crimes-of-the-ira-laid-bare-online-to-combat-twisted-narrative-1-8811206>

Warning against complacency around peace process

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/warning-against-complacency-around-peace-process-37823869.html>

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Queen's University has to address perception as 'cold house' for Protestants

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/nelson-mccausland/nelson-mccausland-queens-university-has-to-address-perception-as-cold-house-for-protestants-37814059.html>

Opinion: Is public healthcare in Ireland failing because we've chosen the path to failure?

thejournal.ie

Since **Ireland** became a Republic, we have pursued a very different path to ... of institutions funded primarily by the state and run by **religious** orders.

Outpatient waiting list climbs to record high with over 523,000 patients seeking appointments

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/health/more-than-523-000-patients-wait-for-appointments-1.3795476>

Anglicans bar same-sex spouses from Lambeth Conference

PinkNews

Canon Jeremy Pemberton, who was the first **Church of England** priest to marry a same-sex partner, highlighted the “hypocrisy” of the decision to ...

Academics to look into why Choral Evensong is so popular

Premier

The most recent statistics on **Church of England** Cathedrals specifically from 2017 show midweek service attendance changed from a total of 7,000 ...

Pope approves miracle needed for Briton's sainthood

Youngstown Vindicator

Associated **Press** ... In the Catholic **church's** saint-making process, one miracle is necessary for beatification, and a second miracle, occurring after the ...

UK Politician Praises Church Youth Groups

Vision Christian Media

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At a **Church of England** education conference, British politician Damian Hinds told Premier he wants to pay tribute to church youth groups and ...

What Catholics and Southern Baptists can learn from each other about sex abuse crisis

<https://religionnews.com/2019/02/15/what-catholics-and-southern-baptists-can-learn-from-each-other-about-sex-abuse-crisis/>

Spain, struggling to rebury dictator Franco, hands ultimatum to his family

<https://www.rt.com/news/451645-spain-government-franco-remains-ultimatum/>

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