



Pope Francis greets David Moxon, the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative to the Holy See, at the Vatican, Jan. 25, 2017.

Pope Francis to visit Rome's Anglican community

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the heart of the Eternal City. The pope will take part in the blessing and dedication of an icon to celebrate the church's anniversary.

Pope Francis will visit All Saints Anglican Church in Rome on February 26 to mark the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Anglican parish community in the heart of the Eternal City.

Jonathan Boardman, who serves as parish priest of All Saints, confirmed the news to CNA.

"The meeting will take place at 4 p.m. in the afternoon, and it will follow the Eucharist celebrated in the morning by our bishops to mark our 200th anniversary," he said.

The pope will not celebrate Vespers, as he did in San Gregorio al Celio with Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, on October 5, 2016.

However, he will take part in the blessing and dedication of an icon to celebrate the church's anniversary, Boardman reported.

"Then, together with our bishops, the Pope will renew baptismal vows, in a spirit of communion, even though we cannot have full communion," the Anglican clergyman said.

At present, the calendar of the All Saints Church's website describes the February 26 afternoon meeting as an "ecumenical service for the 200th anniversary."

At the end of the celebration, Boardman said, "Pope Francis will witness a twinning between our parish and the Catholic church of All Saints in Rome, the only Catholic church in the Rome area dedicated to All Saints."

The All Saints Catholic Church is famous because it is the site where Blessed Paul VI celebrated the first Mass according to the Novus Ordo.

Boardman said the event builds on good Catholic-Anglican relations in Rome.

"Our two communities have already a lot of activities in common, a working friendship that is expressed, for instance, in the common service to poor," he said. "Now, we are going to seal it with a symbolic twinning."

The anniversary event has been planned for years. Boardman said the parish first sent an invitation to the pope three years ago, then sent two other letters.

He also gave a personal invitation to the pope in November 2015, when Pope Francis visited the Lutheran parish in Rome.

“When I wrote again, he knew who I was,” Boardman said.

The community that would become All Saints Anglican Church in Rome was inaugurated on October 27, 1816. It serves about 250 Anglican faithful, though not all of them take part in Sunday services.

Boardman thought the anniversary event will mark the first time a pope visited an Anglican parish.

St. John Paul II visited Canterbury Cathedral, while Benedict XVI visited Westminster Abbey.

David Moxon, director of the Anglican Center in Rome and an Anglican archbishop, said that Robert Innes and David Hamid, Anglican bishops, will take part in the celebration. Both play leading roles in the Church of England’s Diocese in Europe.

Boardman recounted previous good interactions between leading Anglican churchmen and the pope.

The current Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has met with Pope Francis multiple times and at least four times in the last year.

The October 2016 meeting in San Gregorio al Cielo marked the 50th anniversary of Blessed Paul VI's gift of his episcopal ring to Archbishop of Canterbury Michael Ramsey and the 50th anniversary of the launch of the Anglican Center in Rome.

Luther 500: TCD Symposium hosts unique travelling exhibition en route to Wittenberg

A Theological Symposium marking the quincentenary of the Reformation was held at the weekend in Trinity College Dublin. The symposium was a collaborative initiative which involved The Lutheran Church in Ireland and the School of Religions, Peace Studies & Theology, the School of Histories & Humanities, the Department of Physics, Trinity College Dublin.

As part of the event a special Reformation Installation – a truck containing a travelling exhibition – was placed in the Front Square of Trinity College on Saturday. The exhibition is



Organisers, speakers and special guests who attended the opening ceremony of the Luther 500 Theological Symposium in TCD

visiting 67 cities in 19 countries in Europe offering the opportunity to explore Reformation stories and share thoughts and stories about the Reformation. The exhibition will finish in Wittenberg.

An opening ceremony took place in Trinity College Chapel on Friday afternoon. It was compered by Professor Juergen Barkhoff of TCD's Department of Germanic Studies.

Pastor Stefan Csadi of St Finian's Lutheran Church in Dublin highlighted the visit of the Reformation Installation to Trinity, its only Irish stop, and said the Reformation was one of the most defining moments in European history.

Provost and President of Trinity College, Dr Patrick Prendergast, said the university owed its foundation to the Reformation and added that few had greater impact on European history than Martin Luther. Trinity is hosting a number of exhibitions and events to mark the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation and he hoped that students, staff and people from further afield would engage with them.

The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson looked at the concept of reformation and the Church of Ireland through the prism of the Reformation. He said the Reformation offered choice in the public expression of faith in God. "The ecclesiastical world now has the opportunity to embrace choice with the pivotal recognition that The Other is essential to our setting our agenda, individually and corporately, and that your margin is the centre of my world. Connecting Others and margins is the calling of all churches together. The Reformation took place in a world where Christianity had no option but to rub

shoulders with World Faiths other than itself. Some things it got spectacularly and disastrously wrong. We too in our day have no other option than to rub shoulders and to shake hands with those of World Faiths other than our own. Ecumenism simply is no longer sufficient,” he said.

The Catholic Bishop of Limerick and co-chair of the Irish Inter Church Meeting, Dr Brendan Leahy, said the commemoration event was happening to witness to something extraordinary that happened 500 years ago. Referring to the historic declaration signed in Lund, Sweden, last October by Pope Francis and the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, the Revd Martin Junge, he spoke of the importance of ecumenism. Bishop Leahy added that the weekend’s symposium was not about looking back at past events but an invitation to discover transformation as Christians.

Speaking of behalf of the Irish Council of Churches, the Revd Dr Donald Watts, former Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and past president of the ICC, said that Ireland had changed. It had become a multi cultural, diverse society in which the Christian tradition is just one strand alongside others. “A Christian view point

is best expressed by Christians together,” he suggested adding that this was done through the Irish Inter Church Meeting and the Irish Council of Churches.

[You can read the full text of the Archbishop's talk here](#)

Faith is not comfortable: Archbishop Martin's Aware talk in St Patrick's Cathedral

“Faith is not a comfort zone. Faith should leave you uncomfortable. Faith should leave you challenging yourself.” These were the words of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Diarmuid Martin, who was talking to *Irish Times* religious and social affairs correspondent, Patsy McGarry, in St Patrick's Cathedral last Thursday evening (February 16). The event was part of Aware's Resilience Talks series in association with Veritas.

The Archbishop said his faith encapsulated three things: the dignity of every person as God created them; that God created us as a family and we must give expression to that in the way we live; and that God gave us a home on earth which we must care for. He said faith must bring



Patsy McGarry interviews Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in the Lady Chapel of St Patrick's Cathedral.

these three elements together rather than focusing on one or other of them alone.

“Faith is important to me. I have my own simple, inadequate faith. But faith can also become a comfort zone in which people can move away from the realities of life. Faith can damage people. The Church created people who are guilt ridden and scruple ridden and that is not what faith in Jesus Christ is about. Faith should free people,” he commented.

Archbishop Martin said he asked himself about the future of faith citing changes in religious practice and how a faithful future could be established for Ireland which was not like it was in the past. “The biggest challenge to my faith is that I haven’t been able to do something better to bring people back to faith,” he said.

The Archbishop spoke honestly of the times throughout his life when his resilience brought him through. He spoke of the child abuse scandal and his anger that it could happen in the Church of Christ. He said that people often told him that they admired what he had done but he said he didn’t want admiration – anyone who had read what he had read and heard what he had heard couldn’t but do what he did, he stated. However, he said he faced criticism from some within his Church.

He said he drew his resilience from his faith and from his friends. He suggested that it was genetic and that his parents had brought him up to be resilient. He also spoke of his ecumenical friendships with his Church of Ireland counterparts.

Cork workshop on The Power of Presence

The Church's Ministry of Healing in Ireland is offering a presentation on simple prayer practices which the organisers state, "help to bring peace and healing in our daily lives, by connecting us to God. You will learn how gratitude, focusing on breathing and using an anchor-word can be enriching, though easy to use. We will also address one of the ways of dealing with our more challenging emotions, and how to bring some relief to them through a so-called Welcoming prayer."

Join Carol Casey and Dr Iva Beranek as they speak about the Power of Presence on Wednesday, 8th March 2017 at 2pm in the Prayer Room at UCC, Cork.

The presentation is done from a Christian perspective but it is sensitive and gentle, so that people from other traditions, or none, can also participate. Everyone is welcome.

Tearfund youth ministry workshop for Dublin & Glendalough

Everyone involved in youth ministry in Dublin & Glendalough, whether paid, voluntary or clergy, are invited to attend a youth facilitation workshop run by Tearfund. This is a two day programme and the first day will take place in St

Mary's Parish, Howth, on Saturday February 25 from 10am to 3pm. The training focuses on skills, knowledge and resources to help mobilise youth groups to act for a more just and sustainable world and has been widely praised.

As part of the training, the group will be joined by Ephraim Kahsay, the Country Representative for Tearfund in Ethiopia, based in Addis Ababa. His passion is to see people lifted out of poverty.

Ephraim has worked with Tearfund for the last nine years in the development, implementation and management of several ongoing programmes including self-help group work, church and community mobilisation, HIV/Health and livelihoods. The self-help group programme has been particularly successful and has seen over a million people lifted out of poverty in Ethiopia since 2002. Ephraim's background is in psychology and he has extensive experience in group facilitation.

The training is being paid for by Irish Aid so there is no charge to participants but they are asked to bring a packed lunch.

Places on the course are strictly limited so book yours as soon as possible by calling the chairperson of Dublin & Glendalough Youth Council, the Revd Ruth Noble on (087) 0523450.

The date of the second training day will be in March and will be finalised on February 25.



"Our Future is at Stake" - Garvagh Rector warns Parishioners

Sunday 26th February is going to be a defining day in the future of the Parish of Errigal & Desertoghill, according to its Rector, Rev Paul Whittaker.

Rev Whittaker is encouraging as many parishioners as possible to attend a 'Back to Church' Service in Garvagh at which he will outline the challenges facing the parish over the next few years. "Church congregations all across

Ireland are shrinking,” the Rector says, “and as a parish we need to do something about this trend”.

Invitations are being delivered to all families on the Parish data-base. The Rector says he will share with his congregation facts revealed through examination of the Parish data-base and will outline how they aim to challenge these trends. “We really need to do something and act now as we seek to secure the future of our parish for generations to come,” Rev Whittaker says.

The ‘Back to Church’ Service begins at 11am on Sunday 26th February in St Paul’s Church, Garvagh. Exhorting parishioners to attend the service, the Rector warned, “Our future is at stake”.

Cistercian College, cradle of Irish rugby payers and politicians to close

One of Ireland’s best known boarding schools, the Cistercian College, Roscrea, is to close because of a fall in student numbers.

The college, which was founded 112 years ago, is to close its doors to students following a 45

per cent drop in enrolments over the last ten years. At present, it has 167 pupils – nearly half of what the enrolment was in the years between 1989 and 2009 when on average there were 300 pupils at the school. This year, only nine first-year students enrolled in the college, which charges annual fees of over €13,000.

“Running the college with these numbers is not financially viable, Abbot Richard Purcell OCSO said in a statement on the college’s website.

“Other options, including day students and the enrolment of girls, have been explored but were not considered viable.

“Since 2010 the monastic community has provided significant funding to keep the college open. [But] the monastic community does not have the resources to continue to subvent the college.”

Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe said it was with great sadness that he heard of the closure of the Cistercian College.

“I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Cistercian Monks (Trappists), and to the many other dedicated staff and students, who have carried out Trojan work in the school since its foundation in 1905,” the bishop said.



“For over a century the contribution, and now the legacy, of the Cistercian College in the areas of Catholic education, in sport, in politics and public service, in business as well as in other key facets of Irish life, has been immense and is deeply appreciated throughout the Diocese of Killaloe and much further afield.

“The closure of Cistercian College will be deeply felt in our diocese. May I offer my best wishes,

thoughts and prayers to Abbot Richard, College President and Principal, to Mr Brendan Feehan and to all the staff, students and school community in the difficult process of the gradual closure of the school.”

Over the years the school has produced several distinguished politicians, including former Taoiseach Brian Cowen, former Tánaiste Dick Spring, former Minister for Foreign Affairs David Andrews and TDs Barry Cowan and Jim Glennon.

Dick Spring and Jim Glennon played rugby for the school before winning international caps, but it was many years after they departed, and at a time when schoolboy numbers were already in decline, that the Cistercian College Roscrea won the Leinster Rugby Schools Senior Cup in 2015, two years ago.

It irked many a Dublin-based schools rugby player that the Cistercian College played in the Leinster competition. They would remark, isn't Roscrea in Tipperary and that is in Munster? In fact, Mount St Joseph Abbey, where the school is based, is in Co Offaly, which is, of course, in Leinster, entitling the school to play in the prestigious competition.

Fr Purcell said: “Looking back over the last 112 years, we are justifiably proud of what Cistercian College Roscrea has achieved. The decision to close Cistercian College has not been an easy one for the monastic community. It has been made in the knowledge that it will affect the lives of many people.”

News briefs & Upcoming events

+++ Hidden Places and Holy Wells - Fancy a day out walking around some of Ireland's archaeological sites and holy wells along the border? “Join Irish Monastic Tours for a tour of discovery through our prehistoric and early mediaeval past as we follow in the footsteps of St. Brigid and St. Monnina, see the inscribed standing stone at Kilnasaggart, learn about early church settlements and find out how our ancestors built their ancient tombs. Your guides for the day will be, Dr Thérèse Cullen, an expert in monastic Ireland, along with by Dr Barbara Graham, a local archaeologist.” Saturday February 25. 9am-6pm Pickup and drop-off Queen's University, Lanyon Building. Cost: £50 includes lunch and transportation from Belfast. Lunch at Fitzpatrick's pub (near Dundalk)

+++ Parochial house attempted burglary during mass - Thieves attempted to rob a

priest's house while he delivered Mass in his nearby church. The incident happened at the house at St Theresa's Church at Melmount Street in Sion Mills, Co Tyrone on Saturday. Father Peter McLaughlin was saying Vigil Mass in the church as attempts were made to enter the house at around 6.30pm. Police, in a Facebook post, urged people to remain vigilant and report suspicious persons or vehicles to them, remembering to record number plates and descriptions if possible.

++ Fire appeal - The Anglican Diocese of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands is appealing for donations after a boys' home that it ran for more than fifty years was completely destroyed by a fire.

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