

Popemobile handed over to Foyle Search and Rescue charity



A car used by Pope Francis during his historic visit to Ireland last summer has been formally handed over to Derry's Foyle Search and Rescue charity.



The papal colours of Pope Francis were attached to the car used during last summer's visit when it was handed over to the Foyle Search and Rescue charity in Derry on Tuesday.

The Skoda Rapid estate was one of two used by the Pope during his visit to Dublin and Knock last August. One of the cars was donated to Dublin social care agency, Crosscare while the second was given to Foyle Search and Rescue on the recommendation of Catholic Primate, Archbishop Eamon Martin.

Fr Tim Bartlett, who coordinated the Papal visit, travelled to Derry on Tuesday for the official handover of the car.

The car's original diplomatic number plate SCV 1 – Stato della Citta del Vaticano (Vatican City) – was replaced by XUI

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2066, along with the yellow and white papal colours, before the official handover.

Spokesman Pat Carlin said the charity was astounded when it learned it had been nominated to receive the papal car.

“We are absolutely delighted. We intend using the car for education and operational purposes. Archbishop Eamon Martin said he thought of us because of the work we’ve been doing over the last 26 years,” he said.

“There’ll be many benefits for us, not least financial. It takes £135,000 each year to run Foyle Search and Rescue and we’re currently looking at our transport so, if you think about, the car means £25,000 plus that we don’t need to think about,” Mr Carlin said. Report courtesy the Irish News

Ireland’s next Presbyterian moderator ‘youngest in living memory’

The Rev William Henry, 50, is minister of Maze Presbyterian Church in County Antrim and said he wanted to focus on the theme of ‘enjoying God’.

The next Presbyterian moderator will be the youngest in living memory.

The Rev William Henry, 50, is minister of Maze Presbyterian Church in County Antrim.

Mr Henry received the most votes of the Church’s 19 presbyteries, which met independently across Ireland on



Tuesday evening to elect a successor to the current moderator, Dr Charles McMullen.

Mr Henry will be formally elected Moderator by the Church's General Assembly in Belfast in June.

He said he was “deeply honoured” and the experience of “enjoying God” could become his theme for the year ahead.

He said: “Encountering God is always radical and disruptive.

“However, the Church can become casual and forgetful of the presence of God; and wider society has a tendency to be self-contained or self-reliant, the effect for both is that they attempt to live without a recognition of dependence upon God.

“I would wish to use the year ahead that I have to speak about this message and explore with people what it means to ‘Enjoy God,’ both to the Church and wider society.

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“I want to bear witness to what I might call the surprising and unsettling presence of God, the one who offers fullness in Jesus.”

The election takes place on the first Tuesday of every February and out of this year's four nominees, Mr Henry received the most presbytery votes to become moderator-designate.

Love your crooked neighbour with your crooked heart 4Corners Festival event goes told

Fr Greg Boyle SJ spoke on Radical Kinship, in the Skainos Centre, Belfast, on Sunday past.

Greg began by quoting Mother Teresa- ‘we have forgotten that we belong to each other’. Gods dream, that you may be one, no us and them, bridge the divides, any distance that exists, especially those standing in the margins, kinship equally signifies justice, and it reflects our ‘spacious God’.

Homeboy Industries, rehabilitation for gang members is a \$20 million enterprise. It was born when Greg was an LA pastor caught up in a war between gangs. He set up a school first for education, the local convent was vacated, he found jobs with ‘felony friendly’ employers, started a bakery, also a plumbing project didn't work. Try to build resilience for world “, based on therapy, tattoo removal, the creation of businesses, food products, involving people from rival gangs.

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This was radical kinship, Jesus's vision of community and unity, to be 'enlightened witnesses', not a bar to measure up to, hold a mirror up to people, help them see their own dignity. Dismantle the internal messages of shame and disgrace, Greg quoted Acts of the Apostles: 'an awe came over everyone', a sense of wonder at what poor have to carry rather than judgement of them.

Then he had gang members tell their stories of neglect and abuse, being abandoned, beaten and rejected. One guy spoke of his wounds, being proud of them, seeing themselves in kinship, making friends with their own wounds. Not despise the wounded. There was a general lethal absence of hope; trauma and violence ruled, as well as mental illness, and despondency. The trick was to get rival gang members to work with and get to know each other, 'you can't demonise those you know'. Greg spoke about dismantling barriers that exclude, presses on to fulfilment,

For example, Hector was 'born into chaos', drug use of parents, violence always around, 'ugly stained memories', hopelessness, easy to get involved in gangs, become violent people, 'tired of being tired'. He called to see Fr Greg, came on the programme. Surrounded by gang members it was a therapeutic community, he found something he was longing for, love and guidance. He got to understand his story, got to cry, write and express his story, got a new 'father figure' in Fr Greg, got to heal, to be free, able to deal with issues, work through stuff,

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Finally, the Assistant Chief Constable of the PSNI, Tim Mairs, in reply quoted WH Auden , ‘you shall love your crooked neighbor with your crooked heart’.

News briefs

+++Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland lecture in Newry -

”The Autobiography and Journal of the Rev A G Malcolm, 1782-1823”. The story of Malcolm’s life and ministerial career (installed in Newry Old Presbyterian Church in 1809), with observations on church, life and society in Newry, 1809-23, by Rev Dr John Nelson on Thursday 21 February 2019 at 8.00 p.m. in First Presbyterian Church (Non-Subscribing), Newry, John Mitchell Place, Newry BT34 2BX. [First Presbyterian Church \(Non-Subscribing\)](#). [Newry](#) website.



+++Will our faith have children? - In 1993, the Methodist Church in Ireland published a survey called “Will our faith have children?” looking at the impact or lack of it on the next generation in church life. Now some 25 years later IMYC is repeating the survey – The Big Survey. There is no doubt that the connection of young people with their local Methodist church has continued to decline. Statistics show that for the three years, 2013-16, the number of children in

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all groups associated with church from Sunday School to the uniformed organisations had declined by about a third. However, writing in the March issue of the *Methodist Newsletter*, Lisa Best says this: IMYC firmly believes our faith



will have children, but it will require us, as the God's Mission our Mission commitments state, to 'live as if we want young people and children to be part of the Church family, even if that means making hard choices.' The hope of IMYC is that the survey will help us to understand more fully what some of those hard choices might be.

+++New Rector going into bat for Leckpatrick and Dunnalong

-The Rev Canon Paul Whittaker, currently Rector of Errigal and Desertoghill (Garvagh), in the Diocese of Derry, has been appointed Rector of Leckpatrick and Dunnalong, succeeding the Rev Irene Lytle who retired in September 2017.

Canon Whittaker – who has been the incumbent in Garvagh since 2005 – says the move to Tyrone will be “a big challenge” but that he and his wife, Carol, are “looking forward to this new chapter in our lives”.



“We have enjoyed our time in Garvagh immensely,” Canon Whittaker says, “but I felt called to Leckpatrick and Dunnalong.

“We will be leaving many friends behind but I’m confident those friendships will remain. I thank God that we have built a strong parish team in Garvagh and I am sure that that strength will become evident as the parishioners await the arrival of their new incumbent.”

Leckpatrick and Dunnalong will have a familiar look for the incoming rector, who is a serious sports fan. “I played NCU cricket for four years when I was a curate in Coleraine, and played for the Bannsidiers against Bready and Fox Lodge – two clubs which play a prominent role in the life and culture of Leckpatrick and Dunnalong.”

Canon Whittaker also played senior football for Glenavon and nowadays he is the club’s chaplain.

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Six years ago, Canon Whittaker founded the SPARK Programme (Servants Pursuing a Radical Kingdom) in Garvagh. The programme, which is based at St Paul's Church of Ireland, went from strength to strength as it brought young people from across the community together to build new friendships and help their local communities in Garvagh and Glenullin.

In 2012, St Paul's Church of Ireland and Glenullin Community Association introduced a special joint St Patrick's Eve celebration event which has continued annually ever since, alternating between the GAA clubhouse and the Church of Ireland parish hall.

The special programme of events draws members of the different denominations in the area together for a 'Blessing of the Shamrock' ceremony and to enjoy food, music and dancing.

Carol is an enthusiastic supporter of her husband's ministry, whether as a member of the church choir or as organiser-in-chief of logistical arrangements for parish events.

Canon Whittaker's Service of Institution will take place in St Patrick's Church, Leckpatrick, at 8.00pm on Friday 22nd March. The preacher will be Rev David McBeth, Rector of All Saints Clooney.

+++Thought for reflection -

How beautiful thy frosty morn,
When brilliants gem each feathery thorn!
How fair thy cloudless noon!
And through the leafless trees, at night,
With more than Summer's soften'd light,
Shines thy resplendent moon. From Drumcliffe Parish

February 7 in Christian history

February 7, 1478: Thomas More, lord chancellor of England during the English Reformation, is born. Though he idealized freedom of religion in Utopia (1516), he supported the punishment of heretics and Protestants like Martin Luther and William Tyndale. He retired from office rather than acknowledge Henry VIII's divorce and was beheaded for refusing to acknowledge Henry as head of the church.

February 7, 1818 (traditional date): Abolitionist Frederick Douglass is born into slavery in Talbot County, Maryland. After escaping to freedom, he became the most prominent of the black abolitionists and eventually became the first black to hold high political office, as consul-general to the Republic of Haiti.

February 7, 1938: After years of being closely watched by Nazi secret police, Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller is put on trial. He was subsequently confined in a concentration camp, but he survived and went on to hold a leadership role in the World Council of Churches from 1948-1968.

News links

[Presbyterian Church in Ireland elects William Henry as new moderator](#)

BBC News

The Presbyterian **Church in Ireland** (PCI) has chosen the Reverend William Henry to become its next moderator. Mr Henry, the minister of Maze ...

[‘Time to get our act together’ on Brexit, urges Primate](#)

<https://www.irishcatholic.com/time-to-get-our-act-together-on-brexit-urges-primate/>

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San Jose's Choral Project sings to benefit the homeless

The Mercury News

Commissioned by the National Chamber **Choir** of **Ireland**, Lang drew on the classic Hans Christian Andersen tale that “turns her into a Christ-like ...

Pope admits priests sexually abused nuns

<http://www.rte.ie/news/world/2019/0205/1027778-sex-abuse-church/>

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/pope-francis-says-priests-and-bishops-have-sexually-abused-nuns-1.3783878>

They are calling us liars': 14 women who worked in Magdalene laundry fear they will not get full ...

BreakingNews.ie

"This was conceded by the Minister, yet his Department is now relying on vague and unreliable information received, it seems, from the **religious** order ...

Corless: Mother-and-baby inquiry 'hiding evidence away'

<https://www.rte.ie/news/connacht/2019/0201/1026867-tuam-mother-and-baby-home/>

Norfolk vicar: I cannot accept a female bishop

Premier

A **Church of England** vicar from Norfolk says the appointment of a female bishop to oversee his local diocese is something he could not accept.

'I am blessed': UAE's expatriate workers marvel at mass with the pope

The 90-minute open-air mass was considered by some to be the largest show of public Christian worship ever seen on the Arabian peninsula.

More from The Guardian

State of the Union: An olive branch - with thorns

<https://www.rte.ie/news/analysis-and-comment/2019/0206/1027807-donald-trump-address/>

Canadian evangelical school adapts LGBTQ rules, says donations, enrollment are up

A Canadian evangelical college made its lifestyle covenant for students — which bars same-sex relationships — voluntary after a high court ruled the school's policies were discriminatory. **More from Religion News**

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Most evangelical college students appreciate LGBT people even if trustees don't

Clashes between trustees and students at evangelical institutions over the last few years are explained by a longitudinal survey of young Christians' attitudes toward marginalized groups, write Kevin Singer, Alyssa Rockenbach, Laura Dahl and Matthew J. Mayhew. **More from Religion News Service**

Search for undiscovered Dead Sea Scrolls reveals dispute over West Bank artifacts

An architectural dig looking for Dead Sea Scrolls in the Qumran region has sparked a debate over ownership of artifacts from Israel's past. **More from Religion News Service**

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