



New bishop-elect called to do ‘Lord’s work’



Bishop-elect Michael Duignan has said he was “shocked” when Pope Francis appointed him as the next bishop of Clonfert, but felt “called to stay and do the Lord’s work”.

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It was announced on Tuesday that the Elphin priest had been given the role, taking the reins from now-retired Bishop John Kirby who served the diocese for 31 years.

Speaking in St Brendan's Cathedral, Loughrea on July 16, the Athlone native said that religious and laity must work together "shoulder to shoulder" to spread the Faith in Ireland today.

"As a people of faith, the waters we are called to traverse today are very different from those of the past. They are ever changing and difficult to negotiate in sometimes old and leaky boats," he said.

"The voyage of the years ahead will require all of us – priests, religious and laity to become, each in our own way, navigators of a new and ever deeper evangelisation. It will require us to work together, shoulder to shoulder, to renew our own hearts in the Faith."

He added that the Diocese of Clonfert has an "ancient and spiritual tradition" that has always nurtured places of prayer which he hopes to visit in the coming days.

Armagh's Archbishop Eamon Martin congratulated Fr Michael Duignan on his appointment, and said he will bring rich experience to bear upon his new responsibilities as a diocesan bishop. He also thanked Bishop emeritus John Kirby for his "extraordinarily generous contribution" to the work of the Irish bishops.

"In particular, his chairing of Trócaire, his interest in justice and peace, and his concern for Irish emigrants and

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prisoners abroad have been hallmarks of his faithful service as a diocesan bishop and a member of the Bishops' Conference."

Bishop-elect Duignan was born on July 15, 1970, and is a native of Bealnamulla, Athlone, Co. Roscommon. He was ordained a priest in the Church of Ss Peter and Paul, Athlone.

Covenant for “historical cousins” – the Methodist Church and the Church of England – moves forward

Despite an amendment to slow down the process, the Church of England's General Synod has agreed a series of motions to take forward its Covenant with the Methodist Church in Britain to allow interchangeability of ministries and intercommunion between the two Churches.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, told the General Synod: “I for one am profoundly committed to moving forward in this matter, for the sake of the Gospel, for the sake of the Church and for the sake of the world we are sent to serve.”

The Bishop of Coventry, Christopher Cocksworth, who led the General Synod debate, told members that they had a “historic opportunity” before them.

He said: “my prayer is that we will make a clear and well-informed decision with full awareness of its implications not

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only for our relationship with the Methodist Church, our close historical cousin and covenant partner, but also for the credibility of the commitments of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion have made for 100 years to restore the unity of the Body of Christ.”

Synod members voted in favour of starting work on drafting a series of texts including a formal declaration of a new relationship of communion between the two churches. But an amendment from the Archdeacon of Southwark, Jane Steen, removed all references to legislation. Dr Steen told the synod that they needed the right words in the right time.

The House of Bishops has been asked to report back on progress on the texts, after the elections to the new General Synod which are due to take place next year. The texts would include inaugural services to mark this new relationship and practical guidelines on how ministers from each church could serve in the other.

Speaking in the debate, the Bishop of Carlisle, James Newcome, told the General Synod: “this is all about mission, visible unity, that the world may believe is quite simply a gospel imperative.”

A priest from the Diocese of Leeds, Joyce Jones, said: “our unity is vital for our mission. If people see our two churches separately then they won’t see Christ easily. If they see us loving one another and working together to serve Christ, they are more likely to be drawn to faith.”

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Anglican Church of Canada elects its first female primate

The Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC) has elected Linda Nicholls, the Bishop of the Diocese of Huron, as its next primate. She will become the first woman to hold this position in the ACoC and only the second female primate in the Anglican Communion.

The election, held during the Church's General Synod at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver on 13 July, began with five nominees. Bishop Linda was elected on the fourth ballot, with 64 per cent of lay votes and 71 per cent of votes among the clergy.

Speaking shortly after the election, Bishop Linda said: "you have bestowed on me an honour that I can hardly imagine,

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and it is terrifying. But it is also a gift, to be able to walk with the whole of the Anglican Church of Canada from coast to coast to coast.”

Bishop Linda plays an active role in the leadership of the Anglican Communion. She is a member of ARCIC and is part of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Primates’ Task Group on restoring relationships in the Anglican Communion.

The Task Group has adopted a rotating chairmanship of its meetings. Speaking last year following a meeting which she chaired, she said: “I have great confidence in the capacity of Christians to sit down and listen to one another and to wrestle deeply with the core concepts of what it means to be a person in Christ. And that these conflicts do cause pain and they cause rifts, but they also drive us to listen more deeply to what calls us together.”

As primate of the Church of Canada, Linda Nicholls will have to steer the Church forward following repercussions over the divisive vote to allow same-sex marriages, which failed to get its required two-thirds majority in all three houses at the General Synod this month. The vote on Friday (12 July) came after a years-long debate.

July 17 - Today in Christian history

July 17, 180: Seven men and five women who had been captured carrying "the sacred books, and the letters of Paul" are tried before Roman proconsul Saturninus. Since none would renounce their Christian faith, all 12 were beheaded.

July 17, 431: The Council of Ephesus adjourns, having rejected Nestorianism (the idea that Christ had two persons, not two natures) and condemned Pelagianism.

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July 17, 1505: Martin Luther enters the Augustinian monastic order at Erfurt, Germany, at age 21.

July 17, 1674: Isaac Watts, author of about 600 hymns, is born in Southampton, England.

July 17, 1917: American Baptist radio evangelist Charles E. Fuller accepts Christ as his savior. Fuller was ordained in 1925 and in 1937 began the pioneer program The Old Fashioned Revival Hour. He also helped found Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

July 16, 1519: The Disputation of Leipzig, in which Martin Luther argued that church councils had been wrong and that the church did not have ultimate doctrinal authority, ends.

July 16, 1769: Spanish Franciscan friar Father Junipero Serra founds the San Diego de Alcala mission in California, the first permanent Spanish settlement on the west coast of America.

July 16, 1931: Missionary C.T. Studd, one of the famous "Cambridge Seven" and evangelist to China, India, and Africa, dies

July 15, 1015: Vladimir, the grand prince of Russia who made Orthodox Christianity the national religion, dies at age 59.

July 15, 1099: The First Crusade captures Jerusalem, massacring thousands. "The city was filled with corpses and blood," wrote one chronicler.

July 15, 1606: Dutch Painter Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn is born to a wealthy family in Leyden. Personal tragedies seemed to deepen the spiritual dimensions of his

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art, and he eventually created nearly 90 paintings and etchings depicting Christ's passion.

July 15, 1704: August G. Spangenberg, bishop of the Unitas Fratrum and founder of the Moravian Church in North America, is born in Germany.

July 14, 1833: Anglican clergyman John Keble preaches his famous sermon on national apostasy, marking the beginning of the Oxford Movement in England. Keble was joined by John Henry Newman and E.B. Pusey, who led this effort to purify and revitalize the Anglican Church by reviving the ideals and practices of the pre-Reformation English church.

July 13, 1886: Father Edward Flanagan, the Roman Catholic parish priest who founded Boys Town (originally named the Home for Homeless Boys) near Omaha, Nebraska, is born in Roscommon, Ireland.

July 13, 1917: Three children in Fatima, Portugal, report seeing visions of the Virgin Mary.

July 17 - News briefs

+++ Sea Sunday celebrated in Cobh - On 14th July, the annual Sea Sunday service took place in Christ Church, Rushbrooke, County Cork with a large congregation present.

The Service was attended by a wide range of civic dignitaries including representatives from the Cobh ONE (ex-servicemen) branch, the Royal British Legion, the Royal Naval Association, and the Military Police Association. Also

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in attendance were Lt Cmdr Gavin McCarthy, Irish Naval Service, and Hendrick Verwey of Cobh Tourism.

The Commodore Male Voice Choir led the music at the service, singing two anthems, 'Homeward Bound', and 'Nearer my God to thee'.

The guest preacher was the Very Revd Dr Houston McKelvey, formerly Dean of Belfast. His sermon spoke of our common bond with the sea, and the importance of the good stewardship of God's creation.

The officiant at the service was the Rector of Cobh & Glanmire Union of Parishes, the Revd Paul Arbuthnot.

+++ Lunchtime lecture series on Disestablishment - As part of the Church of Ireland's programme of events to mark the 150th anniversary of its Disestablishment, a

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lunchtime lecture series will run at the Irish Architectural Archive, 45 Merrion Square, Dublin, during Heritage Week this August.

The lectures will take place at 1pm on each of the following days:

Tuesday 20th August

Prof Alan Ford, Professor Emeritus at University of Nottingham

What kind of a Church is the Church of Ireland?

Wednesday 21st August

Dr Michael O'Neill FSA

Architecture and Ecclesiology: The evidence from the Church of Ireland drawing collections

Thursday 22nd August

The Rt Revd Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory

Liturgical space and the re-ordering of Church of Ireland churches

Friday 23rd August

Dr Niamh NicGhabhann, University of Limerick

Church of Ireland restorations and representations in 19th-century Ireland

The IAA is currently hosting *A Visual Window to an Ecclesiastical World* – an exhibition of the Church of Ireland's historical architectural drawings – which will be open Tuesday–Friday until 30th August. Admission is free and more information is available **here**.

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+++Disestablishment heritage walking tours - Dates: Tuesday, 20th August – 3pm to 4.30pm; Thursday 22nd August – 3pm to 4.30pm

Meeting Point: Christ Church Cathedral Dublin, at the labyrinth in the grounds

A walking tour with Dr Michael O'Neill FSA (architectural historian) discussing the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland 150 years ago, and looking at the Cathedrals of Christ Church and St Patrick's and adjacent parish churches and how they reflect this event.

While Disestablishment was primarily a political, social, and indeed religious event – a former established Church being made a voluntary one – buildings can help flesh out this story. Cathedrals in particular were restored or rebuilt first as a bulwark against Disestablishment – St Patrick's in Dublin was extensively restored and St Fin Barre's in Cork was entirely rebuilt. Christ Church Cathedral was restored after Disestablishment as an encouragement to the newly voluntary church.

The tour will be free of charge but places are limited and booking is required. Please contact Caoimhe Leppard at caoimhe.leppard@rcbdub.org or on 00 353 (0)1 4125 608.

+++Archbishop's tribute to Normandy veteran cleric -

The Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, said - "We have learned with sadness of the death in recent days of The Reverend Canon Robert Marsden.

"Canon Marsden was ordained in 1950 and served as deacon and priest in St James' Parish in the Diocese of Dublin. Thereafter he and his wife Betty and their family Joy, churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Gerald and David lived in Killeevan Rectory while he was rector of Clones Parish in the Diocese of Clogher. He was also a canon of Clogher.

In retirement, he returned to Dublin to live in Sandymount and worshipped regularly in St John's Church there.

“He wore his distinctions and his immense courage lightly, having undertaken active service in Normandy in 1944 serving in Arnhem. His heroism and bravery and commitment to the freedom of others was recognised by his being awarded in January 2016 France's highest honour, the Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur, for his wartime contribution to the liberation of France.

“In the diocese of Clogher, where I knew him all my life, he is remembered for his faithful pastoral service and for his instinctive commitment to community in all its local variety. He was faithful to God, faithful to the church and faithful to the people.

“We thank God for him and express our sadness and our condolences to all members of his family at this time of bereavement and of the loss of a man both distinguished and unassuming. His watchword was service.”

+++ Mrs Mary Moore - Mary was the wife of the late Bishop Jimmy Moore who served as Bishop of Connor from 1995–2001. Her death took place on 9 July 2019. Mary was a devoted wife and mother and a thoroughly delightful personality. She was a great support to her husband throughout his ministry and will be greatly missed by her family and friends. She is survived by her son Peter, daughter Gillian and the extended family. The funeral was

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held in St Columbanus, Ballyholme, on Monday 15 July 2019 with committal afterwards at Roselawn Cemetary.

July 17 News Links

[O'Loan urges May to row back on Bill extending abortion to Northern Ireland](#)

Belfast Telegraph

Baroness Nuala O'Loan and former **Church of Ireland** Archbishop Lord Eames have written an open letter to Prime Minister Teresa May calling on the ...

[Anti-abortion letter circulated at NI Catholic services](#)

BBC News

The letter was jointly written by Baroness Nuala O'Loan and **Church of Ireland** Archbishop Lord Eames. MPs voted to introduce same-sex marriage ...

[Anti-abortion campaigners target Catholic services with petition for Theresa May after MPs vote to ... - Telegraph.co.uk](#)

[Northern Ireland bill - what happens next? - BBC News](#)

[O'Loan urges May to row back on Bill extending abortion to Northern Ireland](#) - Belfast Telegraph

[Full Coverage](#)

[Northern Ireland church goers urged to back call for abortion law change to be rescinded](#)

Belfast Telegraph

Amendments were voted through by MPs on a bill designed to ensure continuing governance of Northern **Ireland** and the further delaying of an ...

[SNP MP Lisa Cameron fears deselection after voting against Northern Ireland abortion reform](#)

Belfast Newsletter

He accused Dr Cameron of making an "attempt to impose her **religious** beliefs on the women of Northern **Ireland**" and added: "She has every right to ...

[SNP's Ian Blackford risks Free Church censure on Northern Ireland abortion vote](#)

The Times

Ian Blackford, the SNP's Westminster leader, could face disciplinary action from the Free **Church** of Scotland after voting to legalise same sex marriage ...

[One of the last Irish survivors of the Second World War has died](#)

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Irish Post

When he returned to Ireland, he was ordained **Church of Ireland** Deacon for St James' Parish in Dublin in 1950 and also a year later as Priest.

[Death of one of Ireland's last WWII veterans announced](#)

Irish Times

Death of one of Ireland's last WWII veterans announced ... On returning to Ireland, Canon Marsden was ordained **Church of Ireland** Deacon for St ...

[Karen Bushby: 'My dad told me that, after my brother Keith, who had epilepsy, died when he was ...](#)

Belfast Telegraph

Karen Bushby is the newly appointed editor of the **Church of Ireland** Gazette and is also diocesan communications officer for the **Church of Ireland** ...

[Westminster MPs' move criticised by Irish bishop](#)

Church Times

Bishop Kearon, who chairs the **Church of Ireland's** Church and Society Commission, said: "While the absence of an Assembly is very regrettable, it is ...

[Helping marginalised people has been privilege, says outgoing Methodist Minister](#)

Impartial Reporter

Moving on from his post as minister at Irvinestown and Pettigo Methodist **churches**, Reverend Steven Foster has felt "privileged" to have spent time ...

[Fr Paddy Mackle: Missionary priest's concern for poor continued right up to end](#)

The Irish News

... in Africa and **Ireland** and the local **church** in the Archdiocese of Armagh. ... Vice Provincial of the SMA in **Ireland**, told his funeral at St Mary's **Church**, ... was tending to his garden and doing the daily crossword in The Irish **News**."

[First communion costs in Scotland contrast with Irish extravagance](#)

Scottish Catholic Observer

Fr Thomas Hendry is parish priest at St Teresa of Lisieux **Church** in Possilpark, one of the most deprived areas of the country, while Fr Jock Dalrymple ...

[New book explores how integral Republic of Ireland was to IRA campaign](#)

IrishCentral

You only need to take a look at the last three Secretaries of State for Northern **Ireland** to know that none of them cracked open a book on the hard ...

[Thinking Anew– Compassion in action](#)

Irish Times

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The relationship between **church** and state is changing in today's **Ireland** but not for the first time as we prepare for the 150th anniversary of the ...

[New **choral** work to be performed at Daniel Corkery summer school](#)

Southern Star Newspaper

New **choral** work to be performed at Daniel Corkery summer school ... Performed by a London-based **choir**, the musical work will be performed as part of the ... 'The piece is based on Francis Ledwidge's poem, '**Ireland**', but I've given it the title ..

[Covenant for 'historical cousins,' Methodist Church and **Church of England**, moves forward](#)

Episcopal News Service

[Anglican Communion **News** Service] Despite an amendment to slow down the process, the **Church of England's** General Synod has agreed a series ...

[Evangelical minister Jonathan Fletcher 'gave prayer group naked beatings as light-hearted forfeits'](#)

Telegraph.co.uk

The Rev Jonathan Fletcher, 76, was unmasked by The Telegraph last month as the leading **Church of England** evangelical minister who has been ...

[IICSA reprimands Ecclesiastical over earlier advice to C of E and evidence to Inquiry](#)

Church Times

... it had advised the **Church of England** to "cease all contact" with a survivor. ... Ms McNeill again produced the EIO **press** statement in response to the ...

[Sexually abused former vicar dubs archbishops of Canterbury and York 'not fit for office'](#)

ExaminerLive

Mr Ineson, who has now left the **Church of England**, told the inquiry: "I cannot see the face of Jesus in the Archbishop of Canterbury or York.

[Leading churchman defends Barlinnie paedophile who claimed kids enjoyed sexual abuse](#)

Scottish Daily Record

Retired **Church of England** canon Christopher Smith, a former Queen's chaplain, defended Lightband when asked to comment on his death.

[Same-sex marriage: Methodist Church threatens to sever relations with **Church of England**](#)

The Nation Newspaper

THE Methodist **Church** in Nigeria has threatened to sever relations with the Methodist **Church** in the United Kingdom over its decision to adopt in ...

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LGBTI groups urge the **Church of England** to 'follow the Methodist's lead' on same-sex marriage

Premier

All the major LGBTI organisations in the **Church of England** have welcomed the ... In a world of fake **news** there's never been a greater need for quality ...

[Nigerian gay priest in Church of England pushes for marriage with his partner](#) - Guardian (blog)

[Full Coverage](#)

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