



First woman appointed as Central Chaplain to Mothers' Union

This is the first time that the role, which serves the worldwide organisation made up of 4 million members, has been filled by a woman. Rt Rev Dr Emma Ineson, Bishop of Penrith, will be helping guide the spiritual lives of Mothers' Union members.

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Union members and staff as well as ensuring that Mothers' Union continues to work effectively alongside clergy and the wider Anglican Communion.

Bishop Emma was born in Birmingham, brought up in Kenya (where her parents worked in education) and spent her teenage years in South Wales. She met her husband Mat when they were at university and they both went on to study for ordination together at Trinity College. Emma and Mat job-shared their four year curacy at Christ Church, Sheffield and from there they joined the Lee Abbey community in Devon. It was at Lee Abbey that Emma says God installed in her "the absolute necessity of Christian community life as a primary focus for discipleship, transformation and mission".

After four years, the family moved to Bristol and Emma became Associate Minister of St Matthew and St Nathanael Church whilst also teaching part-time at Trinity College. Emma was Tutor in Practical and Pastoral Theology as well as teaching gender studies, charismatic theology, preaching, spirituality and leadership and she eventually became Director of Practical Training.

Between 2013 -2014 Emma was Chaplain to the then Bishop of Bristol, the Rt Revd Mike Hill before returning to Trinity College as Principal in 2014. Alongside these roles she has been Chair of the TEI (Theological Educational Institutions) Principals' Steering Group and a member of General Synod, the Implementation and Dialogue Group on the Five Guiding Principles, and the Lambeth Conference 2020 Design Group. In 2016 she was appointed as Honorary Chaplain to our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen.

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This year (2019) she was consecrated as Suffragan Bishop of Penrith.

Speaking about the new role she is taking on as Mothers' Union Central Chaplain, Bishop Emma says: "I am honoured to have been asked to take on this role. I have long admired the work of the Mothers' Union in its worldwide reach. Now, more than ever, the ministry of Mothers' Union in sharing the good news of Jesus, in supporting family life, in influencing positive change in our communities, and in giving voice to the issues facing women and girls globally, is of vital importance. I have longstanding connections with Mothers' Union myself - my Grandmother was a member for many, many years and both my husband and I became members during our curacy. I look forward to seeing what I can do to support and pray for the members, and the various boards and committees, over the coming years."

"We are thrilled and honoured that Bishop Emma has chosen to accept this critical role for Mothers' Union" says Chief Executive, Bev Jullien.

When Bishop Emma does manage to find some free time, she enjoys cooking and entertaining, reading, walking her dogs, gardening and going to the theatre. She and Mat have two grown up children.

Catholic priests leader hits out at the "demonisation of Catholicism" by Leo Varadkar

Fr Brendan Hoban of the Association of Catholic Priests has hit out at Taoiseach Leo Varadkar over his "mocking and stereotyping of Catholic priests".

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During angry Dáil exchanges recently, Mr Varadkar compared Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin to “a secretly sinning priest”. He later apologised for the comment.



In his *Rite and Reason* column for the *Irish Times* on Tuesday, Fr Hoban (above) said priests in Ireland “have more than most borne the heat of the day”.

The Co Mayo-based parish priest said that despite extensive media coverage of the Church’s child abuse scandals, at parish level there is still huge respect for, appreciation of, and solidarity with the local priest.

He recalled that for many priests the nightmare question at the time of the revelations about clerical abuse was what to

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say to their parishioners after what had been in the papers and on television. Many priests worried if their parishioners wondered if they too were abusers.

There has been widespread condemnation of the Taoiseach's comments.

"[It is] not just that the Church had a lot to answer for (as we do); or that we should apologise for our failings (which we have) but that behind the facade of condemnation priests were living lives that contradicted what they were preaching," Fr Hoban said.

"We know that's the worst possible accusation against a priest. And we know that tarring every priest with the brush of child abuse is unfair and unconscionable, but this is what the Taoiseach speaking in the Dáil chamber seemed to be implying.

"Whatever he said, whatever he meant, whatever the provenance of his words, I think this was why the response was so instinctive," Fr Hoban suggested.

The co-founder of the Association of Catholic Priests said that what Mr Varadkar didn't seem to understand is that very few people in Ireland now have no difficulty with lambasting the Church for its real or perceived sins and failings; but that attacking the local priest is for many a step too far.

"Not that priests are not criticised. We are, constantly. And sometimes by our own parishioners. But for others, it's a no-no."

He said that while the Church has lost much or most of its authority in Ireland, and while criticism is devastating and

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ongoing, at local parish level there is still huge solidarity with the local priest.

In his *Rite and Reason* column, Fr Hoban said the inclusive Ireland that voted for gay marriage and legalised abortion came about because Catholics in their thousands voted for the marriage equality referendum and the abortion referendum.

“But the reality too is that most of the roughly one-third who voted against them were Catholics – and they, along with many Catholics who voted for it, weren’t at all impressed, for example, by the cheering in Dublin Castle for an abortion regime in Ireland.”

He said the difficult truth for Mr Varadkar was that while the new, inclusive Ireland where the marginalised are being brought into the centre has the support of many Catholics, many see the current demonisation of Catholicism as an unfair price to pay for it.

“What the Taoiseach’s remarks have achieved is that they will awaken and give a focus to the sleeping giant of traditional Catholicism,” Fr Hoban said.

Higher providence took a hand when Sir Anthony Hart became chair of major public inquiry

The funeral service for Sir Anthony Hart, chairman of the Historical Institutional Abuse, was held yesterday in St Mark’s Church, Dundela.



Paying tribute to Sir Anthony (above) during the funeral service, Bishop of Clogher the Rev John McDowell said many felt a “high providence” had guided him to chairing the inquiry.

“His work on the Historical Institutional Abuse inquiry was a prodigy of organisational skill, forensic ability and, indispensably, of human sympathy which I think in some ways – small and not so small – helped towards healing the manifestly inhuman treatment that was so painfully recounted in that inquiry room day by day,” Bishop McDowell told the funeral.

“When Tony Hart was asked to chair that inquiry, those of us who are believers knew that a higher providence has taken a hand and that those damaged lives were for now at least in safe hands.”

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Bishop McDowell also recalled Sir Anthony's childhood in Co Fermanagh, where he attended the former Royal Portora Grammar School in Enniskillen before going on to read law at Trinity College, Dublin.

He described Sir Anthony as the son of a country vet who made himself available to those who needed him, including bishops who sought his counsel, adding he had "beautiful manners" and was a "Christian gentleman".

The funeral also heard rowing had been Sir Anthony's passion, and he supported the boats of his former school – which later became the Enniskillen Royal Grammar School – throughout his life.

Bishop McDowell, a former rector of St Mark's, said: "The look of pride on his face when he had an eight named after him was deeply moving. It was as though he had been given all the riches of Arabia.

"If you wanted to see Tony in his natural habitat and in the fullness of his natural personality, then all you had to do was to watch him at the Erne Head as a Portora or an Enniskillen Royal Grammar School (ERGS) boat pulled away of a Coleraine Inst eight.

"There is a sort of tragic completeness that it was after watching the ERGS crews once again victorious at Henley Regatta, and after entertaining them with his usual generosity and fun, that Tony fell so seriously ill.

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Sir Anthony is survived by his widow Lady Mary, described by Bishop McDowell as the love of his life, and their four children Patrick, Fiona, Katherine and David - who the funeral heard regard their father as their hero.

The service was conducted by the Rector, Rev Helene Steede, who also preached. Archbishop Michael Jackson, a former bishop of Clogher and a former student of Portora, was present. Bishop Harold Millar of Down & Dromore before pronouncing the blessing spoke of Sir Anthony's service to the church as a diocesan assessor.

Sir Anthony is survived by his widow Lady Mary, described by Rev McDowell as the love of his life, and their four children Patrick, Fiona, Katherine and David - who the funeral heard regard their father as their hero. His remains will be laid to rest at Devenish Parish Churchyard in Co Fermanagh today, Thursday. The service was conducted by the Rector, Rev Helene Steede, who also preached. Archbishop Michael Jackson, a former bishop of Clogher and a former student of Portora, was present. Bishop Harold Millar of Down & Dromore before pronouncing the blessing spoke of Sir Anthony's service to the church as a diocesan assessor. His remains will be laid to rest at Devenish Parish Churchyard in Co Fermanagh today, Thursday.

Irish nun honoured for her services to the people of Pakistan

Sr Berchmans Conway from Co Clare is to receive the highest honour of St Mary's University, Twickenham, in

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recognition of the almost 70 years she has dedicated to teaching in Pakistan.

The Benedict Medal will be presented to Sr Berchmans by the Archbishop of Westminster and Chancellor of St Mary's University, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, during a graduation ceremony.

Sr Berchmans taught the assassinated prime minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, as well as the recently deceased human rights activist, Asma Jahangir.

Other students of hers include Hina Gilani, Nergis Mavalvala, Sharmeen Obaid, Shireen Mazar, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Tehmina Janjua, Sana Bucha, Nasim Zehra, Atiq Odho and Jugnu Mohsin.

The 89-year-old taught at convents of the Jesus and Mary Order in Lahore, Murree and Karachi.

In 2012, while she was principal of the Convent of Jesus and Mary in Karachi, Sr Berchmans was awarded the Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam, one of the highest civil awards given

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by the President of Pakistan, for her services in education and promoting interfaith harmony in Pakistan.

A special Mass to celebrate the conferral of the prestigious award was held on 25 March 2012. More than 600 people gathered at St Anthony's Church in Karachi for Mass, which was celebrated by Columban missionary Fr Robert McCulloch.

Sr Berchmans will become the fifth recipient, and the first woman, to be presented with the Benedict Medal.

Previous recipients are Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch and Archbishop of Constantinople; Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland; former Archbishop of Canterbury Baron Williams of Oystermouth; and Sir Michael Wilshaw, the former chief executive of Ofsted and alumnus of St Mary's.

Speaking ahead of the ceremony, former British cabinet minister Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, who is a visiting professor at St Mary's University, said the government of Pakistan should consider making the Irish nun an honorary citizen of Pakistan in recognition of a lifetime of teaching and promoting interfaith relations in Pakistan.

"Sr Berchmans taught Muslim, Christian, Parsi, and Hindu children at the convents of Jesus and Mary in Lahore, Murree, and Karachi to promote education, empowerment, and interfaith harmony. She deserves recognition at all levels," Baroness Warsi said.

"I had the privilege of visiting Sr Berchmans in Karachi and I saw at first-hand how her work and presence has created a lifetime of interfaith understanding. Like her students,

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colleagues and peers I am delighted that Sr Berchmans is receiving the Benedict Medal from St Mary's University as part of their summer graduation ceremony at Westminster Cathedral. It will be a fitting occasion for someone who has given their life to education and to helping young people achieve their dreams."

Born in Clashmore, Feakle, Co Clare in 1930, she was the second youngest of four. Sr Berchmans joined the Convent of Jesus and Mary in 1951 in Willesden, London. She did her novitiate in Gortnor Abbey, Crossmolina, Co Mayo, and after spending a year and a half in Spain, she took up an assignment in Pakistan in 1953 when she was 24.

The first Convent of Jesus and Mary in Pakistan was opened by four sisters in Lahore in 1876.

Before her assassination in 2007, Benazir Bhutto kept in touch with Sr Berchmans and on a visit to Ireland she called in to see the members of the Jesus and Mary community in Goatstown in Dublin and referred to the fact that she was a student of Sr Berchmans.

July 18 - Today in Christian history

July 18, 64: The Great Fire of Rome begins, and to direct suspicion away from himself, young Emperor Nero blames the city's Christians. A persecution followed in which Christians were (among other punishments) burned alive.

July 18, 1504: Henry Bullinger, Ulrich Zwingli's successor as chief pastor of Zurich and a close associate of Cranmer, Melanchthon, Calvin, and Beza, is born in Switzerland.

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July 18, 1870: The Vatican I Council votes 533 to 2 in favor of "papal infallibility" as defined that "the Roman Pontiff, when he speaks ex cathedra, that is, when in discharge of the office of pastor and teacher of all Christians, by virtue of his supreme apostolic authority he defines a doctrine regarding faith or morals to be held by the universal Church . . . is possessed of that infallibility with which the divine Redeemer willed that his church should be endowed.

July 18 - News briefs

+++ Ordination of Auxiliary bishop of Armagh - The Episcopal Ordination of Father Michael Router, as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Armagh, will take place on Sunday 21 July 2019 at 3.00 pm in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. In attendance will be Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh; Cardinal Seán Brady, Archbishop Emeritus of Armagh; Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly of Cashel & Emly; Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland; Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Bishop Emeritus of Kilmore Diocese; Monsignor Liam Kelly, Administrator of Kilmore Diocese, and many of the diocesan bishops from around the country. Archbishop Richard Clarke will represent the Church of Ireland and Rev. Louise Donald will represent the Methodist Church. They will be accompanied by members of the Cathedrals' Partnership. Also in attendance will be Father Michael's parents Anthony and Nora Router, his sisters Breda Murphy and Martina Keville, his brothers-in-law Derek Murphy and Ollie Keville, his nieces Aoife Murphy, Orla Keville and Riona Keville, and his nephews Killian Murphy and Niall Keville. Each of the 61 parishes of the diocese will be represented as will many members of the Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission who will participate in the ceremony. Auxiliary Bishop-elect Router is a native of Virginia in Co Cavan and was born on 15 April 1965 to Anthony and Nora Router.

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He has two sisters, Breda Murphy and Martina Keville. He was educated in Virginia National School and in Kells CBS before entering the national seminary of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, to study for the priesthood in 1982. In Maynooth he graduated with a Bachelor in Divinity Degree and a Higher Diploma in Education. He was ordained to the diaconate in Maynooth College by the late Bishop Francis McKiernan on 26 September 1987. He was ordained as a priest for the Diocese of Kilmore by Bishop McKiernan in Saint Matthew's Church, Maghera, in his native parish, on 25 June 1989.

+++ Uganda's first female cathedral provost takes up her post -The Church of Uganda's first female provost was installed on July 10 at All Saints' Cathedral in Kampala. Dr. Rebecca Margaret Nyegenye was ordained in 1997 in Bukedi Diocese and was assistant vicar at St. John's Church in Busia before moving to Uganda Christian University as a chaplain's assistant in 2002. In 2012, she became the university's chaplain.

+++ New Zealand churches challenged to give up plastic for July -July has been designated a "plastic free month" by the Anglican Social Justice Network in New Zealand. The network is encouraging churches to join in the challenge. The plastic-free July challenge originated in 2011 as a pilot plan rolled out by five groups in Western Australia, and it has now snowballed into a millions-strong worldwide movement that continues to grow. During the 'Plastic-free July' challenge, community groups and social organizations cut out single-use plastic within their community activities for the month of July each year.

+++ Canada's General Synod practices respectful dialogue ahead of same-sex marriage vote - In an

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exercise intended to produce more compassionate discussions than those that sometimes prevailed during marriage canon discussion in 2016, members of the 2019 General Synod spent almost the entire afternoon of the gathering's first official day of business hearing about and practicing ways of speaking and listening respectfully to one another. From 1:30 p.m. until close to 5 p.m. on July 11, with one break, Lynne McNaughton, bishop of the Diocese of Kootenay, and priest and psychologist Canon Martin Brokenleg led a session on "being a synod," discussing the importance of living out Christian love during debates about potentially contentious issues, and having synod members practice respectful listening and talking skills in table groups.

+++ Methodist President at National Day of

Commemoration - On Sunday 14th July, the Rev Sam McGuffin, President the Methodist Church in Ireland, represented the Church at the Annual National Day of Commemoration. The ceremony, which was attended by the President of Ireland H.E. Michael D Higgins and an Taoiseach

Mr. Leo Varadkar TD, was to commemorate all Irish people who died in past wars or U.N. Peacekeeping Missions. The Rev. McGuffin was joined in the Inter-Faith service by senior representatives from the other main Christian denominations as well as representatives from the Jewish and Islamic faiths. The ceremony took place at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin. Commenting on his invitation to take part in the ceremony, the Methodist President said: "I was very pleased to be invited to this event and to the the Act of Remembrance and to honour all those from the Methodist community and with all others who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of this nation and the world.

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I also prayed for all the families involved and for all serving in the cause of peace today"

+++ Armagh organist retires after 40 years of service - Miss E. B. Corry M.B.E. has recently retired as organist of St. Mary's Parish Church, Aghavilly and is pictured with Rev. Matthew Hagan (Rector) and Mrs. Frances Nutt (People's Churchwarden)



and Mr. Sam McNiece (Rector's Churchwarden). Miss Corry was presented with gifts from the parish to mark the occasion.

+++ Organist/pianist wanted Derry diocese - St Guaire's, Aghadowey, wishes to appoint an organist or pianist to provide music at its weekly services. This is a paid position (and whether it is full- or part-time is negotiable). The church has one morning service per week (every Sunday at 11 a.m.) and one evening service every month (at 7pm on the first Sunday of every month). The position includes six weeks' paid leave. St Guaire's is described as "an easy parish to work with, where traditional and modern music is enjoyed." It has a small but enthusiastic choir – mostly made

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up of older members – and would like to begin developing musical worship among children. For further details and/or for a full job description, please contact Rev Louise Crawford-McCafferty on 07725908117 or by emailing

louisecrawfordmccafferty@yahoo.com

Applications must arrive by 5pm on Friday 30th August.

July 18 News Links

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

BBC News

By Jayne McCormack BBC **News** NI political reporter letter jointly written by Baroness Nuala O'Loan and **Church of Ireland** Archbishop Lord Eames ...

[Abortion clause will not work, says Baroness O'Loan](#)

BBC News

Last week, MPs voted to change Northern **Ireland's** abortion law and introduce ... which is currently in the bill does not work," the baroness told BBC **News** NI. ... Co-authored by the **Church of Ireland** Archbishop Lord Eames, the letter ...

[Northern Ireland peers tell May to halt abortion moves](#)

The Tablet

'The imposition of this legislation on Northern Ireland in its current ... former police ombudsman and Lord Eames, the former **Church of Ireland** primate, ...

[N Ireland bill legalizing abortion, gay marriage faces challenges in House of Lords](#)

Catholic Herald Online

As the British parliament continues to consider a bill on Northern Ireland ... a member of the House of Lords from Northern Ireland, told BBC **News** NI on July ... Authored by O'Loan and Robin Eames, who was the **Church of Ireland's** ...

[Bill to change abortion law 'treats the people of NI with contempt'](#)

Irish Times

Baroness Nuala O'Loan and former **Church of Ireland** primate Archbishop Robin Eames have called on Theresa May to either scrap the Northern ...

[Falls Road talk to explore hidden history of Ireland's revolution through lives of lesbian activists](#)

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The Irish News

Born in 1874 in Co Mayo to a **Church of Ireland** clergyman, Lynn left school at 16 to become a doctor. She joined the executive committee of the Irish ...

[Last of the Irish pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain turns 100](#)

Irish Times

Born in St Kevin's Gardens in Dartry on July 17th, 1919, he attended St Patrick's Cathedral **Choir** School where he was “an unsuccessful **choirboy**”.

[Pope Francis appoints Fr Michael Duignan as new Bishop of Clonfert](#)

The Tablet

... a priest of the Diocese of Elphin, as the Bishop of Clonfert in **Ireland**. ... On 17 July 1994, he was ordained a priest in the **Church** of Saints Peter and ...

[Fr Michael Duignan appointed as the new Bishop of Clonfert](#) [Independent.ie](#)

Fr Duignan taught Theology, Philosophy and **Religious** Education at St ... regimes operated by **religious**-run industrial schools in his native **Ireland**.

[What does Varadkar really think of priests?](#)

Irish Times

What Varadkar doesn't seem to understand is that very few people in **Ireland** now have no difficulty with lambasting the **church** for its real or perceived ...

[Former Scientologist warns that the controversial religion is creeping into Cork](#)

Echo Live

“The **Church** of Scientology has been in **Ireland** for 30 years but it is poorly represented in **Ireland**, with only around 89 members. However, it is getting ...

[Russian 'fake news' to stoke hatred in NI is 'no surprise' to ex-Royal Navy commander](#)

Belfast Newsletter

... to stoke racial, **religious** or political hatred, especially in Northern **Ireland**”. ... A Foreign Office spokesman told the **News** Letter that such activities are ...

[Irish Airs by Candlelight - Dungloe](#)

The Journal of Music

Join sopranos Ruth Gallagher and Patricia Goggins, along with pianist Herta Kelly, on Friday 2 August at 8pm in St. Crone's **Church of Ireland**, ...

[Concert Planner: 15–21 July 2019](#)

The Journal of Music

17.7.19 – The National Youth Orchestra of Ireland Summer Proms 2019, ... Cathy Jordan, John Carty & Vincent Woods, **Church of Ireland**, Boyle,

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[Best years of our lives: Crawford artists recall their childhood ahead of Summer exhibition](#)

Irish Examiner

"We were a **Church of Ireland** family, so I didn't go to school locally, which meant I didn't have many friends locally, so I spent a lot of time on my own, ...

[Wall of Remembrance at Limerick tourism spot to commemorate famine](#)

Limerick Leader

She also had articles published in the Irish Life, The Irish Times, The Daily Express, The Wicklow Newsletter and The **Church of Ireland** Gazette ...

[The Church of England needs to speak out about Brexit – here's why](#)

Yahoo News

Central to the **Church of England's** understanding of itself as the established church is its vocation to be a "church of the nation" – a public institution ...

[First female Bishop appointed in Reading's 120 year history](#)

GetReading

A woman has been appointed the leader of the **Church of England** in ... The **news** was announced during a visit to Ranelagh School in Bracknell ...

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