

## Anniversary of D-Day commemorated in Glenageary



**Rector, the Revd Gary Dowd, with the standard bearers at the service marking the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings.**

The 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings was marked in St Paul's

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Church, Glenageary, on Saturday morning (June 8). The Service of Commemoration was led by the Rector, the Revd Gary Dowd, and coordinated by the Dun Laoghaire branch of the RBL Ireland. The address was given by journalist and writer, Kevin Myers.

The diplomatic corps included the ambassadors of Britain, Australia and New Zealand and the service was attended by RBL president Lt Colonel Ken Martin, chairman Brian Duffy and vice chairman Brian Crawford. There were a number of standard bearers and the service was also attended by a number of veterans.

St Paul's Parish Choir led the singing and they sang 'For the fallen' during the act of remembrance which included the Last Post, the Exhortation, Kohima Epitaph and Reveille.

## **Trafalgar Square comes alive as thousands gather to mark Pentecost**

Thousands gathered in London's Trafalgar Square on Sunday to mark Pentecost as part of the Thy Kingdom Come initiative.

The crowd braved the rain to hear worship from Matt Redman and the Kingdom Choir.

They also heard from various different church leaders including Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Cardinal Vincent Nichols the leader of English and Welsh Catholics.

Encouraging people to engage with the Holy Spirit by comparing him to wildlife he saw on family holiday's

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Cardinal Nichols said: "Those trees and flowers had deep roots and in a barren landscape they could reach the water.

"That water we can think of as the Holy spirit in our lives – making us fruitful and making us witnesses. For that we need deep roots. We need to know where we are rooted.

"When we gather like this we don't only see the loveliness of the water but we learn to deepen our roots."

Thy Kingdom Come, which is an ecumenical project, was set up to unite people in prayer that more people would come to know Jesus.

The service at Trafalgar Square was the conclusion of what was 9 days of prayer.

Those gathered were led in prayer for various different things including for London's emergency services. Met Police Commissioner Cressida Dick joined Bishop of London Sarah Mullally on stage to be prayed for.

Later, Justin Welby and Vincent Nichols joined leaders of other denominations in kneeling together to pray.

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The event in the capital was one of several beacon events taking place for Thy Kingdom Come. A number of cathedrals across the country also hosted similar gatherings.

## **SERVE leadership programme for young people in Connor Diocese**

A new opportunity for young people within Connor Diocese – will get underway in September.

The SERVE leadership programme, developed by Tim Burns, Diocesan Youth Officer for Down & Dromore, will be led by Rev Philip Benson and Connor Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie.

Aimed at young people aged 15 to 19, the course will explore leadership and equip the young people to lead in their local parish context.

Christina said: “We would love young people to join in this special, development opportunity. We believe it will enthuse them to develop their leadership capacity, and then challenge them to glorify God by serving in their church family.”

There are eight sessions which will run weekly from September 17 to November 12, on Tuesday evenings (except half term) from 6pm to 9pm in The Hub Chaplaincy, Elmwood Avenue, Belfast.

The cost is £50 for each participant, to cover dinner each week, handbook, and sweatshirt as well as a graduation ceremony and certificate.

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## Connor's Archdeacons on a course

The SERVE Graduation will take place on Tuesday November 19 from 7.30pm, for participants to attend with friends, family, leaders and clergy.

There are four consistent elements across the SERVE leadership programme.



They are:

- 1 Communal Meal: Served at the start of each session.
- 2 Spiritual Discipline: Time is given after the meal to practice an element of the disciplines.
- 3 Book Review: Participants will be expected to read a chapter of the selected book prior to each session, at which a young person will lead a discussion on the chapter.
- 4 Teaching and Discussion: This element allows the participants to explore spiritual, practical and personal aspects of Christian leadership through discussion and activities.

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Young people can apply online here: <https://forms.gle/ayz3ewDN1WBm65Mc8>

If you would like to know more, contact Philip on [revpbenson@gmail.com](mailto:revpbenson@gmail.com) or Christina on [07753312405](tel:07753312405) or [christinabailie@connordiocese.org](mailto:christinabailie@connordiocese.org) .

## Primate appeals for calm as one million march in Hong Kong

The Archbishop of [Hong Kong](#), Dr Paul Kwong, has urged the one million people who are protesting against changes to extradition law to “calm down” and seek a resolution through debate rather than protest.

Dr Kwong issued a statement this week appealing to “all parties” to “immediately calm down and to return to reasons in discussing how to resolve the dispute so as to avoid causing further chaos to the society”.

Organisers estimate that more than a million people marched on Sunday against the plan to allow extradition requests from authorities in mainland [China](#), Taiwan, and Macau for suspects who are accused of criminal wrongdoing such as murder and rape. If their figures are correct, it would be the largest protest in Hong Kong since the territory was handed over by the British in 1997.

On Monday, protesters clashed with police outside the city’s parliament. There have been calls for people to surround the building on Tuesday evening and remain until Wednesday.

Britain handed Hong Kong back to China under a “one-country, two-systems” formula, which guaranteed that its

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## Protestors in Hong Kong take to the streets on Sunday

autonomy, including its independent justice system, would be protected.

Critics fear that the proposed change would allow China to target opponents in the region.

In a pastoral letter on Tuesday, Dr Kwong wrote: “I understand that the purpose of the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 is to plug the loopholes in our current legislation. However, this proposed amendment has caused heated debates and deep-seated uneasiness and worries that have resulted in violent conflicts thus dividing the society.

“I appeal to all parties concerned — those who are against and those who are pro the amendment — to immediately calm down and to return to reasons in discussing how to  
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resolve the dispute so as to avoid causing further chaos to the society. It is my hope that people from all sectors, especially young people, to express their demands through legal and legitimate channels and means, and not to resort to illegal means. Illegal means will harm not only those who resort to it, but also those who love them and their beloved, and the society as a whole.

“I called on all Christians to pray for the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong and for a perfect resolution to the dispute.”

The Roman Catholic diocese of Hong Kong has also urged the Hong Kong government and the public to show restraint, and to use peaceful means to find a solution.

Several Christian groups — including the Hong Kong Christian Council, the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, and the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church Union of Hong Kong — have voiced concerns about the proposed change.

Human-rights organisations have written a letter to the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, Carrie Lam, calling for the Hong Kong government to withdraw the proposed changes.

The China director at Human Rights Watch, Sophie Richardson, said: “The proposed changes to the extradition laws will put anyone in Hong Kong doing work related to the mainland at risk.

“No one will be safe, including activists, human-rights lawyers, journalists, and social workers.” But Ms Lam, who has vowed to carry on with the changes, has insisted that

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the law would not erode any of the special freedoms that the territory enjoys.

The second reading of the Bill is due to be debated on Wednesday, and further protests are planned. More than 2000 counsellors, therapists, and carers are due to go on strike to join the protest, and the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union has also called on its members to attend the protest.

## **Episcopal Church joins efforts to mark 400 years since enslaved Africans' arrival in North America**

A historically black Episcopal church in Washington, D.C., hosted a service June 9 marking 400 years since enslaved Africans first landed in North America at Jamestown in what is now Virginia.

The event at [St. Luke's Episcopal Church](#), one of seven participating capital-area churches that were founded by slaves or former slaves, was led by [Bread for the World's](#) Pan-African Young Adult Network, and it kicked off this week's annual Bread for the World Advocacy Summit, a large ecumenical gathering of anti-hunger advocates.

The kickoff service at St. Luke's was framed as a time both of lament for past injustices against African Americans and of hope for a better future, Bread for the World's Angelique Walker-Smith told Episcopal News Service. She said the

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**Participants and organizers of a service marking 400 years since enslaved Africans arrived in North America post for a photo at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C.**

commemoration also was a fitting start to this week's advocacy on Capitol Hill on issues related to food.

"We're bringing historic roots and a historic lens to our legislative agenda," Walker-Smith said. Four hundred years ago, "people of African descent were basically fed the crumbs off the table."

The calendar this year is filled with services and events marking the first transatlantic voyage of Africans in 1619 to the land that would become the United States, and The

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Episcopal Church is in the middle of planning its own commemorations. The church is coordinating with the Diocese of Southern Virginia, which includes Jamestown.

“Staff of the presiding bishop’s office are co-laboring with the people and staff of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia to plan a meaningful commemoration of the arrival of enslaved Africans to Jamestown,” the Rev. Charles Wynder Jr., staff officer for social justice and engagement, said by email. “The commemoration will afford The Episcopal Church a space, time and place to tell the truth and grapple deeply with the implications of its role in the transatlantic and domestic slave trade in North America.

“It will be a significant offering to the church and the world alongside numerous ecumenical, regional and national commemorations.”

Racial reconciliation was identified by The Episcopal Church’s General Convention in 2015 as one of three priorities for the 2016-18 triennium and beyond, along with evangelism and care of creation. [Resolutions dating back decades](#) have helped guide the church as it responds to racism and atones for its own complicity in racial injustice and support for racist systems.

A 2006 resolution specifically [apologized for the church’s complicity](#), acknowledging that “The Episcopal Church lent the institution of slavery its support and justification based on Scripture.” Three years later, General Convention voted to [encourage each diocese to research](#) the church’s role in enabling or resisting slavery and segregation, as well as “the economic benefits derived by The Episcopal Church

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from the transatlantic slave trade and the institution of slavery.”

The Episcopal Church also [regularly partners with ecumenical organizations](#) like Bread for the World in advocacy on Capitol Hill. Bread for the World, for example, led planning for the “For Such a Time as This” fasting campaign, which The Episcopal Church supported, and [its Advocacy Summit](#) is expected to bring hundreds of participants to Washington this week.

[St. Mark’s Episcopal Church](#) in Washington is serving as home base for much of Bread for the World’s two-day Advocacy Summit. The congregation, near Capitol Hill, will host a breakfast and worship service June 11 before participants leave for their rounds at Senate and House office buildings to meet with lawmakers and their staffs in support of [legislation that would prioritize global nutrition efforts](#).

Setting the stage for those meetings, the sanctuary at St. Luke’s was filled with song and prayer on June 9 as a modest crowd gathered for a service based on [a yearlong devotional](#) that Bread for the World developed to commemorate the quadricentennial of Africans arriving in North America.

Among the highlights was a rousing rendition of [“Lift Every Voice and Sing,”](#) a hymn penned by J. Rosamond Johnson and James Weldon Johnson in 1900 for Abraham Lincoln’s birthday and now known as the black national anthem.

“Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
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Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won."

## **June 13 - Today in Christian history**

**June 13, 1231:** Anthony of Padua dies at age 36. His mentor, Francis of Assisi, wrote early in his ministry, "It pleases me that you teach sacred theology to the brothers, as long as—in the words of the Rule—you 'do not extinguish the Spirit of prayer and devotion' with study of this kind." With this blessing, Anthony went on to a life of teaching and preaching, becoming the most popular and effective preacher of his day .

**June 13, 1525:** German reformer Martin Luther marries Katherine von Bora, 16 years his younger, having sneaked her and several other nuns out of their Cistercian convent in empty herring barrels two years earlier. Many viewed the marriage, which lasted 21 happy years, as a scandal.

**June 13, 1893:** Dorothy Sayers, English mystery writer and apologist, is born in Oxford, England. "Man is never truly himself except when he is actively creating something," she once said.

## **June 13 - News briefs**

**+++ Two outstanding concerts in Belfast Cathedral -** in the next 10 days. First up, on Sunday June 16, is the fantastic Belfast Community Gospel Choir, followed on Saturday June 22 by the renowned King's Singers who are giving their only concert in Ireland this year.

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Hailed as ‘the soul of Belfast,’ the Belfast Community Gospel Choir is a relentless ambassador for the city of Belfast, spreading the message of love, joy and peace through music. Performances are charged with passion, and the energy and joy the choir exudes from the stage is infectious!



The King's Singers will give their only concert in Ireland this year at Belfast Cathedral on June 22. The King's Singers were formed in 1968 by six recently graduated scholars from King's College, Cambridge. The vocal line up was (by chance) two countertenors, a tenor, two baritones and a bass, and in the past 51 years the group has never wavered from this formation. Their concert in St Anne's will expose just how deeply and variously love can affect us – through the eyes of an unusually diverse mix of composers and

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songwriters from the past 500 years, bringing together classic audience favourites and some new surprises. Tickets for both events are in demand and are available on the [Belfast Cathedral website](#) . Concerts start at 7.30pm.



**Terry Waite with Alex Kane at the Belfast Book Festival**



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