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Young Dublin Catholics travel to see the Pope in Panama for World Youth Day 2019

A group of 30 young pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Dublin is making their way to Panama, joining thousands

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from around the globe for World Youth Day with Pope Francis.

The group is made up of young people from Dublin parishes, third level students and several young people from around Ireland and Europe and who live in Dublin.

Pope Francis personally chose Panama and he will be there from 22nd to 27th January leading young people in an encounter of faith, friendship and reflection on what it means to be Catholic today. It is one of the largest events of its kind in the world and will be hosted in 33 locations around Panama City, engaging young people from all over the globe in various expressions of faith, art and culture.

There will be seven stages in the main arena in Panama City, hosting an enormous range of events and activities as well as satellite stages in shopping centres, theatres, museums and in churches serving as adoration centres. One of the novelties of the Youth Festival programme is the “WYD 2019 Cup,” a friendly soccer tournament that will be held Wednesday 23 January 23 in Costa del Este.

The Dublin group will arrive in Panama this Friday (18 January). They will all stay with families in a host parish, Parroquia Santiago Apostle. There, along with groups from Latvia and New Zealand they will take part in a social justice programme with local young parishioners visiting the elderly and housebound and help to prepare and deliver food to families in need in the locality.

On Saturday, six members of the Dublin Group will be taking part in a vital environmental debate *Youth for the*

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Common House – Safeguarding of Creation inspired by the Pope Francis' global message on the environment, *Laudato Si*.

The Dublin group will also take part in the Opening Ceremony for the arrival of Pope Francis, the Way of the Cross and Vigil and Concluding Mass on Sunday 27 January.

Throughout their stay, they will be using social media to promote the pilgrimage and to keep in touch with a mirror event, which is happening in Dublin.

Panama in Dublin will take place in the Emmaus Centre in Swords on Saturday and Sunday (26th and 27th). It includes a range of faith led activities. They will also be linking in live to the events in Panama, in particular Pope Francis' address at the opening ceremony, vigil, and closing Mass. Young people from parishes throughout Dublin will be taking part.

Moderator welcomes Policing Board reconstitution

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, has welcomed the reconstitution of the Policing Board and acknowledged the essential role that it has played and continues to play in the life of Northern Ireland.

Dr McMullen was speaking after leading a Church delegation to meet with Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly

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Senior representatives of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland who met with the Chair and Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Policing Board yesterday (left to right) Very Rev Dr Norman Hamilton, Convener of PCI's Council for Public Affairs, Anne Connolly, Policing Board Chair, Moderator, Dr Charles McMullen, Rev Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Amanda Stewart, Policing Board Chief Executive and PCI's Convener of its Peace and Reconciliation Panel, Edgar Jardine.

and Chief Executive Amanda Stewart at its Belfast headquarters today (15 January). "One of the many unfortunate casualties of not having a Stormont Executive over these past two years has been that all of us in Northern Ireland have been left without a fully functioning Policing Board, a vital part of our policing infrastructure, Dr McMullen said.

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“The reconstitution of the Board is an important reaffirmation of the principle of having a democratically accountable police service and with it, effective oversight. In coming here today we wanted to recognise publicly the role that the Policing Board has, both in supporting the Police Service and holding it to account.

“As a community, we all share in that responsibility to support the PSNI and its officers. This is particularly important given the regrettable and continued activity of paramilitary groups and the potential effect Brexit may have on policing, given concerns expressed by the Chief Constable last year.”

Dr McMullen concluded by saying, “Too often taken for granted, we all benefit from an effective, efficient and accountable Police Service. We thank God for its officers, and the work they and the Policing Board are called to do. In the coming weeks and months I look forward to encouraging police officers across Northern Ireland as I plan to visit PSNI’s 11 police districts.”

The Church delegation also included Rev Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Very Rev Dr Norman Hamilton, Convener of PCI’s Council for Public Affairs and Edgar Jardine, Convener of its Peace and Reconciliation Panel.

Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly said, “I welcome Dr McMullen’s warm words of support for the work of the Board and the PSNI. With the Board now fully constituted, we are

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very much looking forward to delivering on our full range of duties for the benefit of policing and our community.

“Today’s meeting with the Moderator and his colleagues provided the opportunity to discuss some of the challenges in the time ahead and emphasise the importance and value of civic advocacy for policing.”

Entries encouraged for second annual Clontarf Choral Competition

The second annual Clontarf Choral Competition will take place in the Church of St John the Baptist on Seafield Rd West, Clontarf, Dublin 3 on Sunday March 3. The competition is open to all amateur choirs with an under 18s’ event taking place in the afternoon and the adult event taking place in the evening.

The organisers are particularly encouraging parish choirs and school choirs to get involved and promote the joy and value of singing hymns and spiritual songs.

The aim of the competition is to encourage the performance and enjoyment of hymnody and religious songs.

All amateur choirs of at least eight members are eligible to enter and perpetual trophies will be awarded in each category. The entry fee is €30 per choir, and the closing date for entries for the 2019 competition is February 3.

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Choirs will sing two pieces. The first piece will be an arrangement of one piece from the prescribed set-list (to be found on the website) and the second piece will be a hymn/psalm/religious song of the choir's own choosing. The second piece must not be from the prescribed set-list. Choirs entering into the senior

competition must sing in at least two-part harmony.

Choirs will be adjudicated by a panel of three judges and marks will be awarded for both the technical ability and overall artistic quality of the performance.

Full details and entry forms are available from the parish website www.clontarfchoralcomp.wordpress.com.

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English Methodists go for growth with new outreach appointments

The Methodist Church has announced a new team aimed at encouraging 'growth and confidence' within the Church.

The Church now has a director of evangelism and growth, Trey Hall, and three new appointments have been made focusing on apologetics, church planting and community engagement.

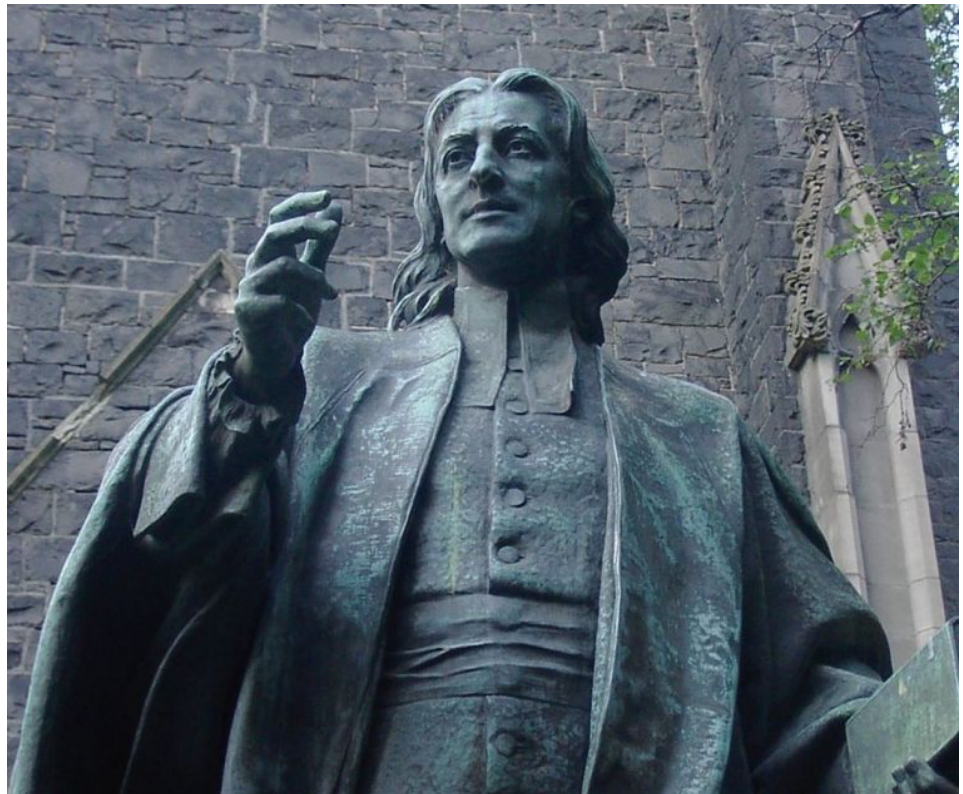
The team will focus on supporting the Methodist Church's 4,650 churches through promoting everyday evangelism, helping churches reach out into their local communities and starting new churches.

According to the Church, the new team is part of its 'response to God and to the cultural and demographic shifts within society. Facing a declining membership along with other denominations, the Methodist Church wants to connect with people who are currently unaffiliated to faith or exploring spirituality in different ways.'

Hall said: 'We want to take some joyous risks in evangelism and growth as we learn to speak and live out God's goodness in honest, inclusive, and culturally compelling ways. This will certainly be a challenge, but it's a challenge that will build up life, creativity, and energy ahead as we seek to live out our calling.'

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**The church
founded
by John
Wesley
is in
steep
decline.**



Methodists now number around 188,000. Membership numbers were over 800,000 in 1906 and over 600,000 in 1980.

Connexional secretary Doug Swanney told the Methodist Conference in 2017 its Statistics for Mission report 'tells us quite starkly we are failing to mitigate our top risk of failing to create enough new disciples'.

The risk of further precipitate decline is exacerbated by the Church's age profile: in 2013, 18 per cent of Methodists were over 81 and 51 per cent were between 66 and 80.

The new members of staff are Steve Hollinghurst, contemporary apologetics officer, an Anglican priest and author; Matt Finch, pioneering and church planting officer, a Methodist minister in the St Neots and Huntingdon circuit; and Emma Nash, mission and community engagement officer, a Baptist evangelist and minister.

Join us for a three week Church History workshop with Dr. Joseph Rivera.

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WEDNESDAYS

9TH, 16TH, 23RD JANUARY 2019

HOWTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8:00PM

Exploring the issues, controversies, creeds and characters that laid foundation for Christianity as we know it today.



Workshop 1

The first 2 centuries: Worship, Canon and Creation

Workshop 2

Who is Christ? The Incarnation and the Trinity

Workshop 3

Augustine: The Greatest Church Father?

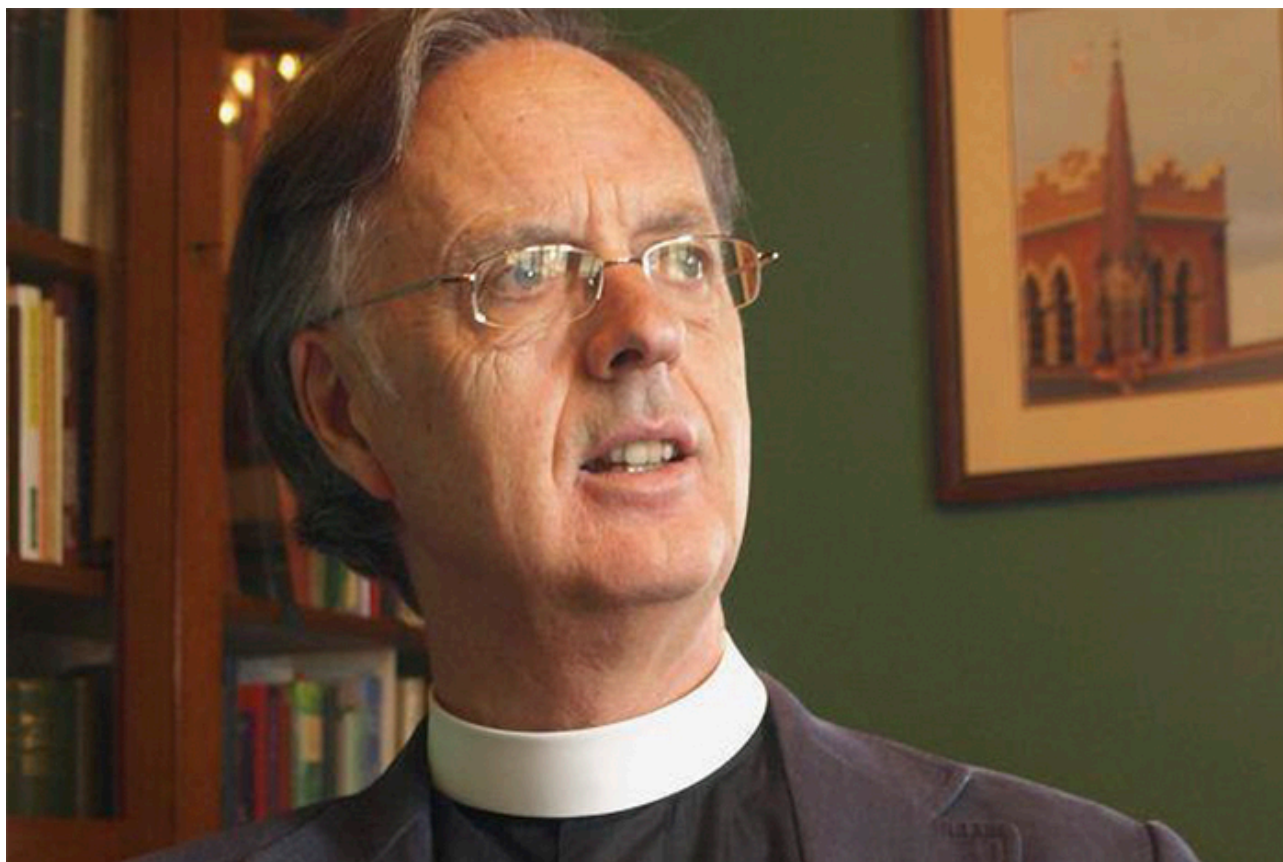


Dr. Joe is a lecturer in Systematic Theology at DCU. He researches and publishes on St. Augustine and modern philosophy of religion. He holds a PhD in Theology.

**For further details contact us through the website:
www.hmpchurch.org.**

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Interim Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome rebuffs “resurrection” criticism



A retired Anglican priest from Australia who has been chosen to lead the Anglican Centre in Rome on an interim basis has sought to rebuff criticism about his beliefs in the resurrection. The former Dean of St George’s Cathedral in Perth, Western Australia, Dr John Shepherd, was appointed as interim director last week following the resignation of Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi.

“Christ is Risen!”, Dr Shepherd said in response to widely reported criticism about his appointment. “There has been speculation in the press and on social media about my

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views on the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Part of this is based on a sermon I preached in 2008.

“It is my faith that Jesus rose from the dead and I have never denied the reality of the empty tomb. The risen Christ was not a ghost – he ate and could be touched – but at the same time he appeared in a locked room (John 20. 26) and vanished from sight (Luke 24.31) and he was often not immediately recognised.

“As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states (para 646) ‘In his risen body he passes from the state of death to another life beyond time and space.’ In my Easter sermon in 2010 I said ‘We believe in the resurrection of Jesus after three days, and in this faith we come to know God who raises us from despair to life, day after day.’

“This remains my faith – that Christ is risen indeed.”

The Governors of the Anglican Centre in Rome – the charity’s trustees – will review recent events before seeking a permanent replacement to Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi, who had been suspended prior to his resignation, following an allegation of sexual misconduct.

January 16 in Christian History

January 16, 1545: George Spalatin, Martin Luther's close friend and go-between with Frederick The Wise, dies.

January 16, 1604: Puritan John Rainolds suggests " . . . that there might bee a newe translation of the Bible, as

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consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek." England's King James I granted his approval the following day, leading to the 1611 publication of the Authorized (King James) version of the Bible.

January 16, 1890: Moody Bible Institute in Chicago is dedicated, 17 years after evangelist D.L. Moody and college administrator Emma Dryer first discussed the idea.

January 16, 1920: Largely the result of Christian activists, the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution goes into effect, prohibiting the sale of alcohol. Thirteen years later, Congress repeals the prohibition.

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