



Launch of Lent Bible studies by young Irish Christians

Bible studies for Lent 2019 offered by the Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland will be presented by a group of young writers from the RevoLectionary team organised by UCD chaplain Scott Evans.

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(RevoLectionary is a weekly blog written by young Christians, reflecting on the gospel readings for the coming week.)

The Lent gospel readings from Luke, which include the parable of the prodigal son, have inspired the title “Transforming Repentance: Coming Home to God”. Repentance, of course, is a key Christian command, but the English word fails to convey the drama of the Greek *metanoia*, which implies a complete turnaround of a person’s life. Scott Evans explains: “Rather than falling prey to the shallow version of repentance as ‘saying sorry for not being perfect’, we will reflect on repentance as a return to who we are called to be as part of God’s redemptive plan.” The key texts for the studies will be the gospel readings for the first five weeks of Lent.

The Bible Study booklets will be available in January from BACI treasurer Barbara Bergin (berginba@gmail.com) at the usual price of €2.50 or £2.25 plus postage, or at the formal launch in Church House, Rathmines in RB week, where a 10% discount for multiple copies will apply. The studies can also be downloaded from the BACI website <www.bibliahibernica.wordpress.com>

What is the Spirit Saying to the Church? SEARCH Colloquium On Ministry

Developing Ministry: What is the Spirit Saying to the Church? is the subject for this year’s SEARCH Colloquium, to be presented in partnership with TCD Chaplaincy on March 30 in TCD’s Long Room Hub.

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Canon Dr David Hewlett, (right) principal of the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, will be the keynote speaker. His theme will be Radical Challenge and New



Possibilities. In the year when the first ordained local ministers are to be ordained deacon, the challenges of discerning vocations to varying styles of ministry, of suitable training, efficient deployment, clergy support and spirituality will all be covered.

Speakers and panelists from all contexts – north and south, male and female, ordained and lay – have agreed to take part, and include four archdeacons and two women deans.

From Dublin & Glendalough, there will be contributions from Canon David Gillespie, Canon Gillian Wharton, the Revd Rob Jones, and the Revd Cathy Hallissey, while the Revd Dr William Olhausen will chair a panel session on “Roads to effective ministry”, after input on training options by Canon Dr Maurice Elliott.

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The Colloquium will be chaired by Bishop Michael Burrows, chair of the Commission on Ministry, in partnership with former chairman, Bishop Ken Good.

To enroll for the one-day Colloquium, please contact SEARCH treasurer, Mr Michael Denton, at subscriptions@searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org. Including lunch and mid-session refreshments, the day costs €35. Concessions available.

Could the next Archbishop of York be a woman?

The first ever female Archbishop may be appointed next year by the Church of England if the bookies' favourites of who will replace the Archbishop of York are correct.

William Hill has named the bishops of London and Ripon - Rt Rev Sarah Mullally and Rt Rev Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, and the Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell - as the joint 3-1 front-runners for the soon-to-be vacant post.

Dr John Sentamu announced last year that he will retire from his post as Archbishop of York on 7th June 2020, three days before his 71st birthday- honouring the custom for a bishop to retire by their 70th birthday.

The appointments will be made by the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC).

The public won't know who the official frontrunners are until the CNC's final announcement that is due to be made by the end of this year.

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Rt Rev Sarah Mullally

The bishops of Manchester, Leeds, Ely, Gloucester (pictured above) and Derby have also been named as favourites by the bookmaker.

The CNC will meet privately in autumn to draw up a shortlist from names put forward by nomination commission members who include a dean, two priests and three lay people. After interviews and a vote by secret ballot, the CNC must choose a preferred choice and an alternative by a two-thirds majority. The names will then be sent to the prime minister who passes this on to the Queen.

“Epiphany opens us to newness of Jesus” – Pope Francis

Pope Francis prayed the Angelus with pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square on the Solemnity of the Epiphany. He reflected on the manifestation of Jesus, which is symbolized by light.

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The prophets in the Old Testament promised this light, he said.

“Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,



the glory of the Lord shines upon you” (Is 60:1).

Isaiah’s prophecy is surprising, the Pope said, because it came after the Israelites came back from exile to find Jerusalem in ruins.

Pope Francis said we are encouraged to let the light of Bethlehem reach us.

With Jesus’ birth, the light foretold by Isaiah is “present and encountered in the Gospel.” He said salvation comes for all people.

The day’s Gospel shows two ways to respond to Jesus’ presence: fear or openness.

“Herod is afraid of losing power and does not think about the true good of the people, but about his own personal gain.”

The Magi, Pope Francis said, are open to the “newness” of the Messiah. They let themselves be guided by the star and

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braved a long and risky journey. “To them is revealed the greatest and most surprising newness of history: God made man.”

He said the Magi adore Jesus and offer him gifts, giving an example of perseverance and generosity of heart.

“And finally, they returned ‘to their country’, carrying within themselves the mystery of that humble and poor King.”

Pope Francis said they surely told everyone they knew about “the salvation offered by God in Christ, which is for all people.”

Finally, the Pope invited us to be enlightened by Christ.

“Let us not allow fear to close our hearts, but let us have the courage to open ourselves up to this gentle and discreet light.”

Information evenings on Transferor Governor role in school management in NI

The Transferor Representatives’ Council (TRC) would like to invite School Governors to an information evening on the role of a Transferor Governor. Each evening runs from 7.30pm to 9.30pm (tea/coffee served from 7.00pm)

Monday, 4 February
Clooney Hall Centre, 36 Clooney Terrace, Londonderry
BT47 6AR

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Wednesday, 6 February

Enniskillen Cathedral Halls, 2 Halls Lane, Enniskillen BT74 7DR

Monday, 11 February

2nd Broughshane Presbyterian Church, 5 Raceview Road, Broughshane, Ballymena BT42 4JD

Wednesday, 13 February

Presbyterian Assembly Buildings Conference Centre, 2–10 Fisherwick Place, Belfast BT1 6DW

Monday, 25 February

Armagh Synod Hall, 46 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7DZ

Wednesday, 27 February

Down Parish Church, Church Avenue, Downpatrick BT30 6EP

To reserve a place please contact Mrs Claire Geoghegan (claire.geoghegan@rcbdub.org) or call 028 9082 8860.

The TRC represents the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in education in Northern Ireland. The TRC would wish to thank all those who have volunteered to be Transferor Governors in the school period 2018–2022. The TRC are holding the series of evenings in conjunction with the Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC). "This will give us the opportunity to outline the unique role of a Transferor Governor and give us an opportunity to meet with Transferor Governors and find out how TRC and CSSC can support them in their role.

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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“There will be an opportunity to meet with members of TRC and find out how TRC represents the Transferor Governors at all levels in education” said a spokesman.

Commissioning of MU President for Down and Dromore

In a ‘first’ for Mothers’ Union (in Ireland at least) Bishop Harold has commissioned the wife of the current chaplain as Diocesan President. Mrs Roberta Macartney was commissioned for Down and Dromore at a service in St John’s Rathfriland on Sunday 6 January. It was also her birthday

Roberta succeeds June Butler, now All–Ireland President, who was warmly thanked for all of her hard work, vision and leadership in the diocese.

The MU in Down and Dromore has 60 branches with some 2,200 members and there are many challenges facing the new Diocesan President. Roberta, however comes to the role with much experience and many skills.

Roberta comes from County Armagh and has been a member of MU for over 30 years. She first joined MU in her home parish of Mullavilly and served as Branch Leader both there and in Milltown parish. Roberta also served as Diocesan Secretary of MU in Armagh Diocese.

She moved to Down and Dromore almost 5 years ago when her husband Gerald became rector of the grouped parishes

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of Drumgath,
Drumgooland,
Drumballyroney,
and Clonduff.

Roberta has been
a Trustee as
Prayer Chain
Representative for
the past few years
and Gerald is
known to many as
the MU Diocesan Chaplain.



All-Ireland President, June Butler, said:
“It has been a privilege to serve as the Mothers’ Union
Diocesan President in Down and Dromore for the past three
years.

“We are now really fortunate to have someone of the calibre
of Roberta Macartney stepping into the role. She has a very
special Christian faith and, in addition to fulfilling the
onerous role of a clergy wife, has many years’ experience in
different branches and roles within Mothers’ Union.

“I know Roberta will be an inspirational leader for our trustee
body and all the members in this diocese who I believe will
support her as they have me. I would ask everyone to
uphold Roberta in prayer as she takes on this responsibility.”

[Read a profile of Roberta here.](#)

[View the photo gallery here.](#)

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New public access times for Archives and Manuscripts in the RCB Library

The Church of Ireland's RCB Library has announced that commencing in February 2019, members' access to the Archives and Manuscripts Collections in the Library will be restricted to four days per week: Monday to Thursday.

Opening hours remain the same: 9.30am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 5.00pm with last orders for manuscripts and archives at 4.30pm each evening (Mon–Thurs) but going forward there will be NO access to Archives and Manuscripts on Fridays.

This will allow the consolidation of limited staff time, and facilitate their work on digitization.

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Access to the Printed Collection for ordinands, clergy and Library Members is not affected by this change, with the Printed Collections being available five days per week, and Library services for books remain unchanged.

The Library is in Braemor Park, Dublin beside the C of I Theological College. Opening Hours: Normal Library Opening Times: Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Last orders for manuscripts and archives – 4:30 p.m.

A reading room is available for reference and study. No appointment is necessary.

Membership of the Library is open to laity as well as clergy: the completion of an application form signed by an approved referee, and the payment of the subscription (currently €5.00 per year or €40.00 for life) entitles members to borrow books.

Books can be sent by post, the borrower being responsible for all postage involved.

Vacancy with The Bible Society NI

The Bible Society NI is seeking to appoint a **Community Partnerships Manager** to join their team.

To find out more, visit the [BSNI website here](#) where you will also be able to download the information pack and application form.

Closing date for completed applications: Monday 28 January at 12 noon.

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January 8 in Christian history

January 8, 1438: In an attempt to forge an alliance that would save Constantinople from the Turks, the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches meet at the Council of Ferrara-Florence. A temporary union was reached, but Constantinople fell anyway in 1453, ending the Byzantine Empire.

January 8, 1642: Mathematician, physicist, astronomer, and devout Roman Catholic Galileo Galilei dies in Arcetri, Italy, under house arrest by the Inquisition.

January 8, 1956: Missionaries Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Roger Youderian, Ed McCully, and Pete Fleming are killed by Ecuadorean Indians they sought to evangelize. The story of the missionaries and their deaths along the Curaray River was publicized by Elliot's widow, Elisabeth, in "Through Gates of Splendor", published the following year.

News links

[Bethany Home and the Church of Ireland](#)

Irish Times

Though the **Church of Ireland** donated money, and consigned women and abandoned children to the Bethany Home, the survivors' campaign ...

[Retired nurse 'instrumental' in setting up comfort fund](#)

The Ulster Herald

... Development Association, chairman of the Glenelly Historical Society and holds various roles with the Upper Badoney **Church of Ireland** parish.

[The Church of England could appoint its first female archbishop](#)

The Australian

The **Church of England** could appoint its first female archbishop after two women were named among the frontrunners to be the next Archbishop of ...

Times

Speculative article on successor for Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, following his [retirement](#) in June 2020.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/women-ready-to-break-stained-glass-ceiling-by-winning-race-to-be-next-archbishop-of-york-nl2glrb6f>

Times

Report on popularity of Anglo-Catholic worship among young people. Article highlights examples of church planting in the Anglo-Catholic tradition.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/millennials-shun-modern-liturgy-for-bells-and-smells-nqtvjf3kk>

Church Times/Northwich Guardian

Reports that St John the Baptist Church in Hartford, Cheshire, is offering three couples the chance of a church wedding and reception for an all-inclusive fee of £1,000.

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2019/4-january/news/uk/vicar-offers-church-wedding-and-reception-package-for-all-inclusive-price-of-1000>

<https://www.northwichguardian.co.uk/news/17314579.church-vows-to-help-couples-tie-the-knot-for-just-1000/>

Exp

Article on Epiphany

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1066871/epiphany-2019-what-date-epiphany-2019-what-does-twelfth-night-mean>

Exp/INews

Articles on Twelfth Night

<https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/life/1066797/twelfth-night-2019-what-date-what-is-what-does-twelfth-night-mean>

<https://inews.co.uk/light-relief/offbeat/twelfth-night-2019-when-date-christmas-tradition-epiphany-shakespeare-play/>

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