



Diversity and Variety of Gifts celebrated at Dublin Pentecost Confirmation



The newly confirmed people, clergy, vergers and choir of Christ Church Cathedral following the Service of Confirmation on the Feast of Pentecost.

Forty-one young people and adults from nine parishes in Dublin & Glendalough were confirmed in Christ Church Cathedral on the Feast of Pentecost (Sunday June 9).

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Archbishop Michael Jackson presided at the service which saw the cathedral filled to capacity as family, friends and parishioners gathered to support the candidates.

The candidates came from the parishes of Celbridge and Straffan with Newcastle–Lyons, Crumlin and Chapelizod, Drumcondra, Santry Glasnevin and Finglas, St Ann with St Mark and St Stephen, St Catherine’s Thomas Street, St Catherine and St James with St Audoen, Tallaght and Whitechurch.

Addressing those to be confirmed the Archbishop said that Christianity teaches us that behind the variety of gifts that people have, there is the same Spirit. Drawing on 1 Corinthians 12:4 ‘Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit’ he encouraged them to use their talents.

“While different people have different abilities and capacities, different personalities and instincts, different ways of doing things, different ways of being who they are, a community that is properly Spiritual has a common direction of travel. Its specific talents have a common origin and a common core and a common goal: The Spirit of God. Holy Scripture tells us that talents are to be used and not hidden, enjoyed by us, invested in others not buried for ourselves or lost out of fear. But Holy Scripture is also not shy to tell us that such proper use also brings personal benefits; and this is realistic because we need to do things for ourselves as well as for other people. Doing for others needs to be offset by doing for ourselves,” he said.

Archbishop Jackson added that the diversity of all the confirmation candidates was celebrated on Pentecost.

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“We celebrate the open access we have to God the Father through Jesus the Son and in the Holy Spirit; and we await the further expression of this on Trinity Sunday. But for today we rejoice in The Spirit:

‘When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place.’ (Acts 2.1) – in the togetherness of variety itself. I suggest that confirmation – and your confirmation here and now today – puts you right in the path of such freedom to be children of God; to do everything of which the prophet Joel speaks: prophesy, see visions, dream dreams whoever we are: young and old alike and together. This gift is now in your hands. I encourage you to use it and enjoy it,” he concluded.

[You can read the full text of the Archbishop’s sermon here.](#)

Evangelism key in Pastoral Plan launched for the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

At Mass to celebrate Pentecost Sunday in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Waterford, Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan launched the Pastoral Plan for the diocese ‘*Go Make Disciples (2019 – 2024)*’.

The Pastoral Plan sets out a programme of development and renewal in the diocese over the next five years. It is an expression of faith in the power of the Holy Spirit who ‘makes all things new’ and of our hope that under the guidance of the Spirit our parishes will be alive and hearts set on fire.

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The Pastoral Plan has emerged from a process of dialogue and consultation, initiated by the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and conducted in a number of venues throughout the diocese during 2018.

Launching the plan *Go Make Disciples* Bishop Cullinan said, “Peoples’ hopes and dreams for our local Church were recorded at the ‘listening sessions’. Parishioners are emphatic that change is needed; it will not do to continue as before if we are to address the many challenges that face the Church in her mission today. People identified the absence of youth in our churches, the ageing and dwindling congregations, the serious decline in vocations to priesthood and religious life, and, of course, the enormous challenge posed by the rapid process of secularisation in our society. It is clear that these are issues that need to be urgently addressed in a new pastoral plan. People are proud of their Catholic faith and believe that we have Good News to share, but we must read the signs of the times, listen to what the Spirit of God is saying to us, and then plan how we are going to share that Good News now and in the future.”

Bishop Cullinan continued, “Reflecting on the feedback from the parishioners in light of Pope Francis’ vision for the Church today, it becomes clear that a radical transformation of ecclesial culture from maintenance to mission is called for in our parishes and diocese. Pope Francis has called for a missionary Church and for *all* members to become missionary disciples. Hence the title of our pastoral plan: *Go Make Disciples*. This title came from the Diocesan Pastoral Council.”

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Four themes or core strategic directions are identified to realise this vision. These are:

1. Becoming an evangelising Church
2. Creating communities of faith characterised by hospitality, belonging and acceptance
3. Enhancing the quality of our liturgical celebrations and providing opportunities for spiritual growth
4. Remodeling leadership and governance structures to serve the mission of evangelising and transforming the world.

Core objectives and actions to implement the strategies are outlined under each theme. Evangelisation is the key to this transformation of culture. The Alpha Programme will be rolled out in parishes to rekindle faith in Jesus as Our Lord and Saviour and thus to rediscover what it means to be a disciple. A Director of Adult Faith Formation will be appointed to support adults in their faith journey. To lead the programme for the evangelisation of youth and to coordinate ministry to youth, a Director of Youth Ministry will also be appointed.

Bishop Alphonsus spoke of a new development in leadership in the diocese, saying, “In order to better manage this evangelical approach we will need greater emphasis on team ministry in new pastoral units across the diocese, where small groups of parishes, their clergy and trained lay people will work in teams.

“Evangelisation should lead people to the faith community. Throughout the pastoral plan, the vision is one of building a Christian community of disciples where all feel welcome and have a sense of belonging and where liturgy connects with the real lives of people.”

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A disciple of Christ is called to 'go', to reach out to others, and to transform the world in solidarity with others. A number of objectives are outlined in Theme 4 to serve this mission of transformation. A Diocesan Commission for Justice and Peace is to be established which will advocate on behalf of marginalised groups, including the homeless, and to encourage actions to respect the environment and counteract the threat of global warming.

Bishop Cullinan concluded, "I entrust this new Diocesan Pastoral Plan entirely to the care of Our Mother Mary, conscious that we are totally dependent on the Holy Spirit who goes before us, opening our hearts and minds. God wants us to be missionary disciples, to work through us, to love Him above all things and then to bring others closer to Christ through His Church."

Priest attacks 'militant republicans' after Londonderry trouble

A parish priest has hit out at "militant republicans" in Londonderry who he claims are trying to position themselves as "saviours of the community" following trouble in the Creggan area at the weekend.

Creggan parish priest Fr Joe Gormley, speaking after a spate of incidents in the city following a funeral for a teenager whose body was found inside a burning stolen car in the Galliagh area last week, asked: "Do we want vigilante policing or do we want normal, accountable policing?"

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There were violent scenes in the Creggan area on Friday following the funeral of 18-year-old Caoimhin Cassidy, whose body was found on June 1 in a stolen car that caught fire after it struck a lamp post in the Galliagh area.

After the funeral, there were several incidents of dangerous driving captured on video and posted to social media.

Angry locals could be seen throwing objects at a car being driven at high speed around a roundabout.

Later that day, there were reports of an altercation at the Bligh's Lane area in Creggan, where "between 40-50 youths" had congregated.

A male teenager was later found by a police patrol "lying on the grass in the area of Hollyhall Road with the junction of Creggan Road" with "puncture type wounds" to his shins.

And around 30 minutes after midnight, it was reported to police that "a number of masked men had smashed windows at the front and rear of a property" in the Culdaff Gardens area.

There have been questions raised about the lack of police presence in the area.

Several sports teams cancelled events in the area on Friday, while delivery drivers for several local businesses refused to go into the Creggan area.

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George Magowan, a director at the Creggan based 'healthy living trust', said there are questions for the PSNI.

Speaking on BBC Radio Foyle earlier yesterday, Mr Magowan said: "I didn't see no police response at all. Personally I didn't. I've got a lot of unanswered questions. There's questions that need answered and only they can answer them, so we'll see what happens."

But Fr Joe Gormley said the trouble in Creggan raises wider questions.

He also aimed criticism at "militant republicans" for trying to take advantage of the situation.

"Let's face it and let's be quite blunt about it," he said on BBC Radio Foyle. "The PSNI didn't want to come into the area because they didn't want to exacerbate a difficult situation.

"The PSNI — they're damned if they do, they're damned if they don't. If they were to come into the area, some of those militant republicans would have easily orchestrated a riot. They're manipulating people's minds here to set themselves up as saviours of the people, which they're not. They have their own narrow agenda."

Asked about the lack of police presence in the area, Fr Gormley said: "That's a question I can't answer for the police and I don't want to be a spokesperson for the PSNI. I'm not going to do that. Are we going to have normal policing or are we not? That's the big question. Do we want vigilante policing or do we want normal, accountable

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policing. There was no accountability to that the other day. Just as there's been no accountability for the murder of Lyra McKee."

June 11 - Today in Christian history

June 11, 1799: Richard Allen is ordained a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church .

June 11, 1850: David C. Cook, a pioneer publisher of Sunday School materials, is born in East Worcester, New York. By his death in 1927, his company was the largest publisher of nondenominational Sunday school literature in the world.

June 11 - News briefs

+++ St Patrick's Cathedral - was featured on Sunday Miscellany by Emer O'Kelly. Click on the link below to learn a little more about the Dean's behind St Patrick's Cathedral ! (Starts at 2 minutes!)

<https://www.rte.ie/radio/radioplayer/html5/#/radio1/11046141>

+++ Family Fun Day at Glendermott Parish, Derry - Scores of children and adults - many carrying picnics - converged on Glendermott Parish Hall this weekend for a Family Fun Day. There were lots of activities on offer including craft tables, bouncy castles and face-painting.

For those who wanted to appreciate the sheer diversity of God's Kingdom, though, Casey's Creatures was a must. This brought youngsters up close with a variety of exotic animals, including a skunk, a meerkat, an armadillo and a

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baby boa constrictor. The more brave-hearted got a chance to stroke or even hold the animals.

The event was organised by the Diocesan Children's Officer, Kirsty Lynch, and there were lots of leaders on hand throughout the day to ensure that things proceeded smoothly and safely. The day culminated with a Celebration Service giving thanks to God for the day's fellowship and fun.

+++ All creatures great and small celebrate Pentecost - Pentecost was celebrated in St Saviour's Church in Arklow (Sunday June 9) with the annual service of thanksgiving for pets. A wide range of pets, from goldfish and guinea pigs to dogs of all sizes, joined parishioners in the pews for the joyful service. Pupils of Carysfort NS added to the celebration of creation with a rendition of 'If I Were a Butterfly'. Speaking over much barking (none of it angry), Canon Nigel Sherwood described the gift given to the disciples by Jesus on Pentecost. He added that the animals were all part of God's creation and they were a wonderful gift. He concluded that the Feast of Pentecost reminds us of the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

+++ First Choral Evensong for 30 years - The choirs of Belfast Cathedral and St Patrick's, Broughshane, who joined for Choral Evensong on June 2.

The choir of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, joined the parish choir of St Patrick's, Broughshane, to sing Choral Evensong on Sunday June 2.

People from the village of Broughshane and further afield came together for the first Choral Evensong sung in Broughshane for more than 30 years.

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The rector, the Rev Dr Andrew Campbell, said: “It was wonderful to welcome David Stevens, Master of the Choristers, and the choir of Belfast Cathedral to Broughshane, as they showcased excellence in choral music.

“We are grateful for their willingness to come and to nurture and inspire the choral tradition here. I also want to pay tribute to our own choir in St Patrick’s, Broughshane, and our organist Elizabeth Ferguson as they joined with the choir of St Anne’s in this wonderful evening.”



+++ Connor diocesan reader commissioned - Mr Richard Cotter, Finance and Administration Manager with Connor Diocese, was commissioned a Diocesan Lay Reader at a service in St Patrick’s, Ballymena, on Sunday June 9

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+++ Children's ministry growth at Knock - The parishioners of St Columba's Knock celebrated the children



from their growing Sunday School and Crèche with a prizegiving and BBQ last Sunday morning. The children took part in the All-age service – reading the lesson, singing a children's anthem, leading the prayers and lifting the collection. They were then awarded their Sunday School and Crèche attendance prizes at the front of the church which was packed with parents, family and friends. During the service, excitement began to build as smells from the BBQ began to drift into the church. Sure enough we enjoyed a marvellous lunch prepared by the Assistant Organist Brian Clements and his team of helpers. Despite the heavy rain and wind of the early morning, by lunchtime

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the sun was shining brightly for everyone and the church lawn was full of chatter and fun.

The Rector, Canon John Auchmuty, congratulated all the children on their excellent attendances at Sunday School and Crèche and thanked all the teachers and parents for their invaluable commitment and support.

It has been a source of immense blessing to see this growth and development in St Columba's and to have welcomed so many parishioners to this service. There was terrific singing, led by the Parish Organist and Choral Director, Dr Joe McKee, the Choir and Music Group, and as we all sang so enthusiastically in the final hymn, "To God be the glory!"

+++ Fresh Expressions in Kilmore - In the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh a training day for the 'Gathered in harvest' outreach took place on Saturday in the Royal School, Cavan. Clergy and lay readers from the same diocese will gather in CITI for a residential from 12 to 14 June to explore Fresh Expressions of church. This is part of the IDLE process which is taking shape across the Church of Ireland in relation to Fresh Expressions.

+++ Ecumenical Symposium for Ecumenical Bible Week - On Thursday afternoon, in Clonliffe College, as part of Ecumenical Bible Week 2019, the Archbishop of Dublin will chair a symposium 'How can we be a Christian in Ireland today? – Voices of Hope in a secularised Ireland'.

+++ Clerical appointment, Derriaghy, Connor - The Rev Aaron McAlister, curate at Antrim Parish, has been appointed rector of Derriaghy.

Aaron, 46, is married to Melanie and they have two children, Jacob and Ellie.

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Aaron worked for 20 years in the DVA in Motor Taxation, and was commissioned as a Diocesan Lay Reader in December 2007. He gained a professional certificate in ministry in 2012 from the University of Chester before completing two years of training at Theological College in Dublin. Aaron was ordained a deacon in 2015.

During training he did placements in Christ Church, Castlerock, and St Paul's, Dunboe (Articlave); Desertoghill (Moyletragh) and St Paul's, Garvagh (Errigal).

Aaron also did a one month placement with Bishop Justin Badi Arama, Diocese of Maridi, South Sudan. He worked for a year with the united parishes of Billy and Derrykeighan with Rev John Anderson (incumbent) as a year out from Theological College.

His third year intern placement was as deacon at Holy Trinity, Portrush (Ballywillan).

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Following ordination, Aaron served as curate assistant in All Saints' Parish Church, Antrim, with the vicar, the Ven Dr Stephen McBride. "I've learned a great deal from Archdeacon McBride, and he has supported me in all my endeavours in my time in Antrim. I will miss working with him," Aaron said.

His hobbies include Playstation, photography, reading, Star Trek, and 'mostly coffee!' He says his sporting endeavours are generally limited to the Wii, so Aaron and Melanie go walking for fitness.

"Melanie and I are sad to leave Antrim of course," Aaron said. "We've built up many good friendships and don't intend on losing them. My greatest blessing has been to build up God's people and start from scratch a youth group called Next Steps.

"However, I look forward with excitement and anticipation to the next chapter as the rector of Christ Church, Derriaghy, and St Andrew's, Colin, and to discovering how I am to serve God and the parish."

No date has yet been set for the institution service.

June 11 News Links

[The Irish Times view on churches and sexuality: A relentless obsession](#)

Irish Times

Meanwhile, the **Church of Ireland**, as with Anglicans worldwide, faces possible schism over the same-sex issue as members, including two bishops, ...

[Gardaí investigating alleged sexual assault of boy, 12, by senior students at Church of Ireland ...](#)

Irish Post

GARDAÍ are investigating allegations that a 12-year-old boy was sexually assaulted by older students at a **Church of Ireland** boarding school.

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Vince Cable and Caroline Lucas back gay marriage in Northern Ireland

PinkNews

Vince Cable and Caroline Lucas back gay marriage in Northern **Ireland** ... Now, a filmmaker who was kicked out of the Irish Presbyterian **Church** for being gay has A Sky **News** poll published in April 2019 showed that 76 percent of ...

Money stolen and windows damaged at Groomsport church

Belfast Telegraph

Money stolen and windows damaged at Groomsport **church** ... Money was stolen and windows damaged in an incident at a Co Down **church**.

Higher power: Church of England backs medicinal cannabis

Financial Times

The emerging world of cannabis investment has been given a green light from an unlikely source: the **Church of England**. The investment arm of the ...

[Medical Marijuana Gets Backing From Church of England, FT Says](#) - Bloomberg
[Church of England blesses medicinal use of marijuana](#) - The Times

[Pentecost meaning: What is pentecost and why is it important to Christians?](#)

[Express.co.uk](#)

It is this sermon that many believe was the birth of the Christian **church** as an ... Christians around the world mark the day by attending special **church** ... The holiday has special resonance in the UK and **Ireland** where Whitsun Ronda Rousey WWE **news** WWE WrestleMania 35 Charlotte Flair Becky ...

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