

Pope appoints Father Michael Router as auxiliary bishop of Armagh

Pope Francis has appointed Father Michael Router as the new Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of [Armagh](#), Sorcha Pollok writes in The Irish Times.



New Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Armagh, Bishop Michael Router says “I am overwhelmed by the occasion. I am grateful to Pontifex for his trust, please pray for me.” after Mass in St Patrick’s Cathedral Armagh along Archbishop Eamon Martin

May 8, 2019



Her Majesty The Queen is pictured with Members of the Order of Merit, following a luncheon for members held at Windsor Castle yesterday afternoon. The Duke of Edinburgh, who has been a Member of the Order of Merit since 1968, also attended the luncheon. Archbishop, the Lord Eames (front right) was present.

The news of Fr Router's appointment, which assigns him to the Titular See of Lugmad, was made public on Tuesday by the [Vatican](#). He is currently the parish priest of [Bailieborough](#) in Co Cavan in the diocese of [Kilmore](#).

Fr Router said he was shocked and surprised when informed during Holy Week that he was to be appointed as auxiliary bishop in Armagh, saying he never saw himself as someone "worthy of this office" and was conscious of his "limitations and weaknesses".

"Until that moment I had been happily serving as parish priest in Bailieborough and reasonably expecting, that God

May 8, 2019

willing, I would be there for several more years; perhaps even until retirement,” he said. “I am very grateful to Pope Francis for the trust he has placed in me and I pray that the Holy Spirit will provide what is otherwise lacking.”

Fr Router acknowledged he was “sharply aware that many people do not share the same positive experience of the church that I do” and that for too many years the Irish Church became “too comfortable in its position of temporal as well as spiritual authority”.

People of faith must anticipate and embrace the “unprecedented change” taking place and “never hanker for the certainties of the past but work towards creating a new expression of what it means to be Church in this time and place”, he said.

“Even though I take on this role with fear and trepidation in my heart I do so also with a sense of excitement that we are at a crossroads where we can shape a new existence for our faith communities.”

Archbishop of Armagh Eamon Martin welcomed the appointment of Fr Router who will replace the late bishop Gerard Clifford and expressed thanks to Monsignor Liam Kelly and the diocese of Kilmore for “giving us such a talented and devoted pastor”.

Bishop pleads with politicians in NI talks process

All-party discussions with the aim of restoring the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly, started yesterday, 7 May 2019.



The Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Rt Revd Harold Miller, speaking before the start of the talks, said, “I greatly welcome this new round of political talks in Northern Ireland. With so many others, I want to plead with our politicians to give the kind of leadership which brings peace, seeks the good of the whole community, and removes the dangerous vacuum which permeates our society at this time. As a church, we will be fervently praying for a successful outcome.”

Major fundraising appeal to replace all slates on higher roofs of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, has yesterday (Tuesday May 7) unveiled its single largest building project since the Guinness restoration in the 1860s. A major fundraising appeal has been launched to replace, in their entirety, the slates on the higher roofs of the building.

May 8, 2019

In an imaginative move, members of the congregation, together with other worshippers, and visitors in real life and on line, are being given the chance to follow in the philanthropic footsteps of the Guinness dynasty. They will have the opportunity to sponsor a slate or slates which, in an interesting quirk of history, are being sourced from the same Welsh slate mine which provided the slates for the restoration in the nineteenth century.

Those wishing to sponsor a slate can do so at **stpatrickscathedral.ie/support-us**

The Dean of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dr William Morton, explains that, while the roofs have been maintained to a high standard over the last 160 years, there are serious problems which have arisen due to ageing. Among the issues are nail sickness, where nails have become totally rusted, or have dropped out altogether, and delamination of some of the slates.

The entire roofs have to be re-slatted at an estimated cost of €9 million. This will be the most significant conservation project undertaken by the Cathedral since the 1860s when Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness funded, undertook, and personally supervised, a full-scale restoration of the building.

“Saint Patrick's Cathedral – the third church on this ancient site, on which it is believed our patron saint baptised some early Christians from a famous well nearby – is a protected structure and also a national monument. Founded and granted collegiate status in 1191, it was raised to cathedral

May 8, 2019

status in 1219. Many alterations occurred over the years, but the present building dates to the mid-thirteenth century and has served as The National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland since 1870,” said Dean Morton.

The cathedral is recognised extensively for its excellence in choral worship. Its Choir School is the oldest school in Ireland (founded in 1453). It is also renowned for the fact that it is the only cathedral in the world to have sung Matins during term time.

St Patrick’s Cathedral is in the top three or four major tourist attractions in Dublin with visitor numbers in 2018 of almost 630,000. As well as this, Saint Patrick’s Cathedral is a much sought after venue for arts events including musical and choral recitals, lectures and exhibitions.

There is also a very busy Education Department through which workshops and other events are organized for about 6,000 children annually, while the cathedral’s Community Development Officer engages avidly with Dublin 8 and beyond in interesting, innovative and engaging initiatives.

“If the 800 years of history at Saint Patrick’s is to continue as, first and foremost, the National Cathedral with its distinctive pattern and nature of worship, and if all our other activities are to be maintained and developed for what is, thankfully, an ever-increasing footfall, then this urgent work of replacing the slates must proceed immediately,” said Dean Morton.

“That is precisely why we are appealing to members of our congregation, other worshippers, and visitors in person and churchnewsireland@gmail.org

May 8, 2019

on-line to express personal 'ownership' of this iconic building and its exciting history by sponsoring a slate. Individual sponsorship packages start from €50, and we expect, if donors wish to have a slate donated in memory of a loved one, to record the donations and the details of those in whose memory they are given, for posterity".

Dean Morton explains: "We have been preparing and budgeting for this major building project for some years and already €5 million has been raised. It is our hope that, with this new appeal, together with all other searches for funds, we shall be able to realise our financial target."

"I could not stress emphatically enough that it is our ardent desire that the Cathedral will remain open for worship, and the reception of visitors, throughout the conservation project."

The current critical works will be undertaken by Clancy Construction under the supervision of conservation architect Mr John Beauchamp of Benjamin+Beauchamp Architects, Wedmore, Somerset. The Cathedral is pleased to note that this conservation project will provide significant employment to conservation specialists thereby protecting traditional crafts and skills.

See [**stpatrickscathedral.ie/support-us**](http://stpatrickscathedral.ie/support-us) for more details.

Defining moment in the life of Desmond Tutu

Asked by the BBC to identify the defining moment in his life Desmond Tutu spoke of the day he and his mother were

May 8, 2019

walking down the street. Tutu was nine years old. A tall white man dressed in a black suit came towards them. In the days of apartheid in South Africa, when a black person and a white person met while walking on a footpath, the black person



was expected to step into the gutter to allow the white person to pass and nod their head as a gesture of respect. But this day, before a young Tutu and his mother could step off the sidewalk the white man stepped off the sidewalk and, as they passed, he tipped his hat in a gesture of respect to her!

The white man was Trevor Huddleston, an Anglican priest who was bitterly opposed to apartheid. It changed Tutu's life. When his mother told him that Trevor Huddleston had stepped off the sidewalk because he was a "man of God," Tutu found his calling. "When she told me that he was an Anglican priest I decided there and then that I wanted to be an Anglican priest too. And what is more, I wanted to be a man of God" said Tutu.

May 8, 2019

Huddleston later became a mentor to Desmond Tutu and his commitment to the equality of all human beings due to their creation in God's image a key driver in Tutu's opposition to apartheid."

We can all strive to be "people of God" who are willing to "step off the sidewalk" and "tip our hat" to our sisters and brothers, particularly those on the margins. May it be so...

Today in Christian history

May 8, 1373: English mystic Julian of Norwich receives 15 revelations (she received another the following day) in which she saw, among other things, the Trinity and the sufferings of Christ. She recorded her visions and her meditations on them 20 years later in her book *The Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*.

May 8, 1559: The Act of Uniformity receives Queen Elizabeth I's royal assent, reinstating the forms of worship Henry VIII had ordered and mandating the use of the Book of Common Prayer (1552).

May 8, 1603: The University of Leiden appoints Jacob Arminius, Dutch founder of an anti-Calvinist Reformed theology, professor of theology.

May 8, 1828: Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross and the Young Men's Christian Association, is born in Geneva. He won the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.

May 8, 2019

May 8, 1845: The Southern Baptist Convention, one of the largest denominations in America, organizes in Augusta, Georgia.

May 8, 1895: Roman Catholic archbishop and broadcaster Fulton J. Sheen is born in El Paso, Illinois. With his ABC shows "Life is Worth Living" and the "Bishop Sheen Program," he became the most prominent American Catholic of broadcasting's golden era.

May 8, 1915: Henry McNeal Turner, the first black army chaplain in the United States, dies in Windsor, Ontario, embittered toward America for its racism. Many consider him to be the precursor of black theology for his statement, "God is a Negro."

News briefs

+++Cork cathedral choir sings in Lübeck - The choir of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork travelled to Germany in Easter week. At 4.30am on Thursday, 25th April the coach to Dublin Airport departed from the Cathedral. On board were 30 young choristers, 9 adults singers, 6 supervisors, a priest, an organist and a conductor. Some were more bleary-eyed than others at that time in the morning but all had woken up sufficiently to negotiate their way through airport security and Ryanair check-in.

By 2pm local time all had arrived at the accommodation in Lübeck and were ready for an ice cream.

Lübeck is geographically not unlike Cork, as the group kept trying to tell the guide the following day whilst doing a

May 8, 2019



walking tour of the ancient city. The Altstadt is built on a marshy island and the river flows into the nearby Baltic Sea. It was of course a major trading port and seafaring plays a major part in the history of the city. The main features of the city, unlike Cork perhaps, are the seven spires of five enormous churches, all made from brick and which have dominated the skyline for centuries.

The choir's first service was in the largest of these, the St Marien Kirche, where the composer Buxtehude was famously the organist in the late seventeenth century.

Every Friday a service for peace is held at 12.05pm, just after the famous astronomical clock has struck its noon bells. The service follows the Coventry Litany in recognition of the Second World War bombs which fell on English and German churches.

Canon Daniel Nuzum led the short service in partnership with their Lutheran Pastor and fittingly it was effectively

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

May 8, 2019

bilingual. The choir sang appropriate music including Charles Wood's *Nunc dimittis in B flat* for six voices.

+++CITI seminar May 10 - Professor Stephen Williams to give a seminar on the theme of eschatology on Friday evening, 10 May, at 7pm in The Church of Ireland Theological Institute. The seminar will focus on the areas of cosmic eschatology and personal eschatology. Regarding cosmic eschatology, Professor Williams will frame his discussion around the question 'Where will it end?' while his discussion of personal eschatology will embrace ideas growing out of the question 'What will I be like?'. Professor Williams is a systematic theologian who holds degrees from Oxford, Cambridge and Yale, and is currently Honorary Professor of Theology at Queen's University Belfast following his retirement from Union Theological College. His publications include 'Revelation and Reconciliation: a window on modernity', 'The Election of Grace: a Riddle without a Resolution?', and 'The Shadow of the antichrist: Nietzsche's critique of Christianity'. Interested members of the public are warmly invited to attend this seminar which will be followed by tea and coffee and an opportunity for conversation. For more information or for directions to the Institute, please contact janeKelly@theologicalinstitute.ie

+++ Annual IDAHOT service - Sunday 12th May sees our 11th Annual IDAHOT service at St Georges Parish Church, High Street Belfast at 5pm. We are delighted to welcome as our guest preacher Paul Jeffrey from the Non Subscribing Presbyterian Church. Music will be by the St Georges Chamber Choir.

May 8, 2019

+++Capella Caecilianiana concert - Capella Caecilianiana will end THEIR 2018/19 season with a concert in Good Shepherd Church, Ormeau Road, on Saturday 8th June at 7.30pm. They will be joined by Holy Rosary Primary School choir. Tickets (£12 - students and under 25s free) now available from their website - caecilianiana.org/get_tickets

+++ Clerical appointment - Rev Nigel Kirkpatrick appointed to Kilroot and Templecorran: The Rev Nigel Kirkpatrick, rector of St Dorothea's Parish, Gilnahirk, Diocese of Down and Dromore, has been appointed rector of the Grouped Parishes of Kilroot and Templecorran, Connor

+++GFS activity day - 58 girls and 10 leaders from 4 branches in Cashel, Ferns and Ossory Diocese arrived at K.C.K. Activities included team games, Rounders tournament, movie night, Relax kids session, bowling, tour of the city, crafts, shopping. The annual concert was a great hit with a variety of acts, magic, singing, dancing, comedy and lots more musical acts. A great time had by all.

+++ Clogher parish year of events to celebrate 200th anniversary - The year at St. Mark's, Aghadrumsee began with an opening service of the 200th on Sunday, 5th May when the Bishop of Clogher, Right Revd John McDowell was present. Known as "The ridge of the hill of the fairies," was originally formed as a district in Clones Parish and was in Clones until post-disestablishment times when it was made a separate incumbency. The Church was built in 1819 as a Chapel of Ease to Clones, the ground having been granted by deed on 1st May 1817. The parish has some strong links with people in military, commerce and politics.

May 8, 2019

Charles Irwin (1824-1873) was recommended for and awarded the VC on 24th December 1858. Irwin was presented with his VC by his Regiment in India in 1859. He was buried in Aghadrumsee graveyard. A headstone was dedicated by the Bishop of Clogher Right Revd John McDowell on 22nd April 2018.

+++ C of I Bookstore - Morning & Evening Prayer on Sundays with Seasonal Services: A special edition (2019) of the new Service of Morning & Evening Prayer for use on Sundays, with Seasonal Services. Presented in a soft-back blue cover, the book contains the newly approved service material from the BCP at an affordable price. *£4.30 / €4.99*

+++ King's Singers at Belfast Cathedral - The King's Singers will be performing their only concert on the island of Ireland in 2019 at Belfast Cathedral - the Cathedral Church of St Anne, on Saturday 22nd June 2019. An evening not to be missed! Tickets are still available! More information and tickets available via - <https://bit.ly/2J2fHFW>

Your prayers are requested for... Brian Simons – Nightlight worker in the Cathedral Quarter, Belfast, and Dock Café, Belfast. Nightlight works in the Golden Mile and Cathedral Quarter areas in Belfast, reaching out to those who frequent the entertainment areas of Belfast.

Pray for Brian as he oversees the work of Nightlight in the Cathedral Quarter. Pray for safety for staff and volunteers who assist on Friday and Saturday nights. Pray for more volunteers to join the teams. Pray that God would continue to bless the conversations the Nightlight workers and

May 8, 2019

volunteers have with people they meet. Pray too for the wonderful opportunities Brian has talking to people at the Dock Café.

+++ Food for thought - People can be entertained on devices 24 hours a day; they do not need a church for that. They need a church for silence, reverence, community, ancient wisdom, the opportunity to be of service, the real presence of God. America Magazine

News Links

[Same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland 'best memorial' to Lyra McKee](#)

PinkNews

Same-sex marriage should be introduced in Northern **Ireland** in tribute to ... for change within the **churches**—and in particular, the Catholic **Church**.” ...

[Emotional London vigil honours early Irish abuse campaigner](#)

Irish Times

Tyrrell recorded his life story, sending chapters to former **Irish** senator and lecturer ... from the people who lived under the rule of the Catholic **Church**.

[Pope appoints Father Michael Router as auxiliary bishop of Armagh](#)

Irish Times

The **news** of Fr Router's appointment, which assigns him to the Titular See of Lugmad, was made public on Tuesday by the Vatican. He is currently the ...

May 8, 2019

['Nothing is impossible with God', **church** leader urges prayer over NI political talks](#)

Premier

President of the Methodist **Church** in **Ireland**, Rev William Davison is one of many **church** leaders who ... We hope this **news** story was of value to you.

[The Irish Times view on the divorce referendum: No room for complacency](#)

Irish Times

The CSO reports there were more than 22,000 weddings in **Ireland** in 2017, and while **church** weddings remain the most popular choice, the ...

[Former Whiteabbey minister's key role at General Assembly](#)

Belfast Newsletter

A former Whiteabbey Presbyterian **Church** minister will again have an important ... One of the largest **churches** in **Ireland** and the largest Protestant, ...

[General Synod to debate motion involving persecution of Christians](#)

Irish Times

A motion calling on the **Church of Ireland** to write to the Department of Foreign Affairs asking it to place on a par with all other human rights issues the ...

[Campaign to ban US fundamentalist preacher from speaking in Dublin](#)

Irish Times

According to Changing Attitude Ireland, a liberal **Church of Ireland** group sympathetic to gay people, Mr Anderson “has advocated exterminating ...

May 8, 2019

[Anger over rabidly anti-gay US pastor's planned visit to Ireland](#)

IrishCentral

Pastor Steven Anderson, who is not affiliated with any Christian **church**, was set to visit **Ireland** later this month but campaigns have now begun to have ...

[New Anglican Communion budget formula has 'extreme potential impact' on The Episcopal Church](#)

Episcopal News Service

It was also unclear how the formula would impact the **Church of England**, which ... The Anglican Communion **News** Service covered the meeting here.

[Evangelical Anglicans demand answers after GAFCON criticism](#)

ChristianToday

He suggested one way forward as the example of EFAC, which had been dissuaded from breaking away from the **Church of England** in the 1960s by ...

+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org

