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**Have Faith in Ourselves and Faith
in Others – Archbishop Jackson**

March 8, 2019



“Lent is about choices and making choices,” Archbishop Michael Jackson told those who gathered for the Service for Ash Wednesday at the Interfaith Centre at Dublin City University (March 6).

The Archbishop presided at the service and was assisted by the Director of the Church of Ireland Centre at DCU, assisted by the Revd Prof Anne Lodge, the Revd Viji Varghese Eapen and DCU Chaplain Philip McKinley.

He said that the focus on choice was made clear in the account of the Three Temptations that Jesus underwent in the desert: commanding stones to become loaves of bread; launching himself from the pinnacle of the temple;

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worshipping one who promises all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour.

“What the Scriptures tell us, alongside the narratives of the three temptations, is that in each case it is the familial ease that Jesus has with Scripture itself that equips him to refute the temptations from within Scripture; and each of them is a choice for humility first and foremost that Jesus makes. Scripture and humility can be our first freedoms and choices; and we might make both of these to be spiritual resolutions for ourselves for Lent,” Archbishop Jackson said.

Turning to the Gospel for Ash Wednesday [Matthew 6:1–21] , the Archbishop said it didn’t have anything to say about the Temptations of Jesus. Rather it contained instructions on how to do good things: giving money, praying, fasting. These, he pointed out, were not exclusive to Christianity and were applicable to people of a wide range of world faiths.

He said student and academic life might not naturally lead to the world of Matthew 6. However, he contended that the final verse was universally applicable: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”. [St Matthew 6.21]

“In the context of the lengthening of our choices and our freedoms, in the space we create for our ambitions, time and energy tick on whether we are undergraduates, postgraduates or academic staff. And so: goals matter; purpose matters; treasure matters. We’d do well to have faith in ourselves and faith in others, living in a highly

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competitive space, and we might even think of using what Christians call The Season of Lent to this purpose. For those of us who are Christians I suggest that we do not shy away from the public expression of Lent. We should not be ashamed of the cross on our forehead; it is not drawing attention to ourselves, it is drawing attention to Christ Jesus as alive in the world and engaged in the world through suffering and through politics and through religion,” the Archbishop stated.

You can read the Archbishop’s sermon in full here. The imposition of ashes during the Ash Wednesday Service at DCU.

‘Sorrow and shame’ in Donegal over notorious clerical abuser

Bishop Alan McGuckian has expressed sorrow on behalf of the diocese for the abuse of children by the late Eugene Greene, the Irish Catholic reports.

The onetime priest of the diocese, whose death in Cork last November was announced recently, pleaded guilty in 1999 to 40 counts of sexual assaults of children between 1965 and 1982. Sentenced to 12 years in prison, he was released in 2008, having been defrocked in 2004.

“The news of the death of Eugene Greene has reopened the hurt of those whom he violated, their loving families and

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communities across the Diocese of Raphoe,” Bishop McGuckian said in a statement. “On behalf of the diocese I wish to express my profound sorrow and shame at the abuse which he perpetrated on innocent children.”

Dr McGuckian said that An Garda Síochána informed the diocese of Mr Greene’s death on February 26. Until the contact, the diocese had not been aware of his death, and had not known of his whereabouts since he left prison in 2008.

“Once the diocese was made aware of Greene’s death, we immediately advised Tusla, the child and family agency, of this information,” Dr McGuckian said. “While at all times honouring the wish of those survivors who may not want to be contacted by the Church, I wish to offer my support and invitation to meet with anyone who has suffered abuse.”

Church bodies which provide support for abuse survivors include the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland, Towards Healing and Towards Peace.

NBSCCCI: – Telephone 00 353 (1) 505 3124

Towards Healing: – Freephone (UK & NI) 0800 096 3315
or (RoI) 1800 303 416

Towards Peace: – Telephone: + 353 (0) 1 5053028 and on
+353 (0) 86 7710533

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Hub Chaplaincy at Queen's University get on their bikes for Uganda



A group from the Hub Chaplaincy at Queen's University will use pedal power to raise pounds for two charities working with children and young women in Uganda.

The Rev Barry Forde, Church of Ireland Chaplain at Queen's, will be joined by four other fit fellows to cycle the length of Ireland, from Mizen Head in Cork to the tip of Malin Head in Donegal – covering 400 miles in four days from May 4-7 in a bid to raise £10,000.

The money will support the charities Abaana and Waakisa, at the same time raising awareness of the vital work these organisations do in Uganda.

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A member of the Hub Uganda team does some craftwork with New Life Choir member Prossy.

It is work Barry and others from the Hub have been privileged to witness at first hand, as teams from the Hub visited Uganda in 2015 and 2017. Another team, primarily made up of students, is preparing to go out to Uganda in June this year.

It will be led by Hub staff members Rachel Kennedy and James Turner, and by year-out ministry interns Amy Atwell and Tim Purdue.

Barry is not joining the team this year, but will play his part in the #400miles4uganda cycle challenge. Joining him on the road are The Hub's worship team leader James Turner,

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James' dad Alec Turner, Chris McDowell, a member of the Church of the Resurrection at Queen's, and Peter Anderson, a member of the Chaplaincy management group. The team will be supported by Carol Turner, wife of Alec and mum of James, who will drive the support vehicle.

Former Archbishop of York John Hapgood dies aged 81



The former Archbishop of York, John Hapgood, has died at the age of 81.

He served as the Church of England's second most senior archbishop from 1983-1995, having formerly served as Bishop of Durham.

His successor at York, Most Rev John Sentamu, paid tribute to him saying: 'The sad news of the death yesterday of former

Archbishop of York, John Stapylton Hapgood, comes as northern bishops gather for a Diocesan mission in Liverpool.

'As a hugely distinguished scientist, theologian and philosopher, Archbishop Hapgood's faith in Christ gave him

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a particular perspective and a persuasive witness both to church and nation for his time. His many books simplified big and complex questions, revealing an incredibly perceptive intellect. I'm very glad to have confirmed his grandchildren and dedicated a room in his honour at Bishopthorpe Palace.

'His towering presence, physical, intellectual, and spiritual, was a gift to all who knew him. My prayers are with his family at this time. May he Rest in Peace, and rise in glory.'

A former principle of the ecumenical Queen's College in Birmingham, he was a strong supporter of women's ordination. He wrote widely on science and religion, warning of the 'Protestant extremism' that has led to the rise of creationism and arguing that accounts of supernatural events in the Bible should be seen in the context of the cultural beliefs of the time.

New York anglican parish acquires Berkeley, California- based, seminary

Trinity Church Wall Street announced March 4 that the New York parish has acquired the Berkeley, California-based seminary.

The Very Rev. W. Mark Richardson, CDSP president and dean, told Episcopal News Service in an interview that the deal will put the school on a solid financial footing and

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The Rev. William Lupfer, Trinity Church Wall Street's rector, left, and the Very Rev. W. Mark Richardson, Church Divinity School of the Pacific president and dean, announced the acquisition to CDSP students, faculty and staff on March. 4.



position it for growth. CDSP and its assets now belong to Trinity, he said, and the value of those assets “will be a fund, among other resources they have, that supports the program at the school and operation.”

“It’ll be starting point of the kinds of funds we need to, say, augment faculty or to provide scholarship funding for students,” he said. “This becomes part of their assets that are poured back into the mission of the school.”

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Trinity sees CDSP as part of its strategy “to present and offer the curriculum that will bring new leaders into the world that can gather communities and resource them in a way that we have not been able to do currently,” the Rev. William Lupfer, Trinity’s rector, told ENS in an interview.

Ultimately, Trinity and CDSP hope to add more faculty and an expanded curriculum that will train clergy and laity for a changing church, especially in the areas of leadership development, formation and community organizing. Making theological education more affordable is also a goal, church and seminary officials say. Both organizations hope to expand their current relationships across the Anglican Communion.

“It’s going to strengthen and enhance our programming,” the Rev. Ruth Meyers, the school’s academic dean, told ENS. “Trinity has this history of not only doing work in leadership development but [building] relations around the Anglican Communion, and I think that’s really going to enhance the work we’re doing at CDSP.”

CDSP, founded in 1893, is one of 10 seminaries with ties to The Episcopal Church.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal-seminaries>

It is not the first of those schools to change its ways of being in order to survive the economic challenges facing all small graduate schools, and seminaries in particular. In 2012, Bexley Seabury Seminary was [formed through a

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federation of two Episcopal seminaries, Bexley Hall Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Chicago.

News briefs

+++Scam? Ask Us welcomed by PCI - The Secretary to PCI's Council for Social Witness, Lindsay Conway, has welcomed the latest initiative by the ScamwiseNI partnership, 'Scam? Ask Us'. Run by the Post Office, customers across Northern Ireland can ask counter staff for their advice if they think they have received an unusual or suspicious request that could be a scam.

<https://bit.ly/2HmTqkF>



+++Connor parishes unite for Lent - An Ash Wednesday Service was held in St Saviour's Church in Connor. It was the first of the Lenten rural deanery mid-week services. The service was well attended. The service of Holy Communion was conducted by Rev. Ian Magowan and the topic for his sermon was "Jesus prayed for us", part of the overall theme of the mid-week services - "Jesus, the human face of God". Next week the service will be in Christ Church, Ballynure with the topic "Jesus loved us".

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+++Civic Reception for Moderator - hosted by Councillor David Maxwell, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan Co Council. The Moderator said, “ I received warmest greetings from the Mayor and local community representatives, which I found very moving. It was fertile ground to mention my theme of Building Relationships.”

+++International Meeting Point, Belfast - Your prayers are requested for Keith Preston – the PCI mission worker serving in International Meeting Point, on the Lisburn Road in Belfast which welcomes people from overseas in the name of Jesus. It provides lunches, advice, Bible studies, English lessons and much more. Pray for Keith and his colleagues Henry Coulter and Sharon Heron as they staff the project and for all the volunteers who make it possible.

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www.presbyterianireland.org/letspray

+++Food for thought - God is the father who watches and waits for his children, runs out to meet them, embraces them, pleads with them, and begs and urges them to come home. It might sound strange, but God wants to find us as much, if not more, than we want to find God.

Henri Nouwen in *Spiritual Direction*

March 7 in Christian history

March 8, 1698: British missionary Thomas Bray and four laymen found the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (S.P.C.K.) "to advance the honor of God and the good of mankind by promoting Christian knowledge both at home and in the other parts of the world by the best methods that should offer.

March 8, 1715: France's Louis XIV announces he has finally put an end to all Protestant practices in his country.

March 8, 1782: Ninety-six Native Americans, who had converted to Christianity and were living peacefully in the Moravian Brethren town of Gnadenhutten (near New Philadelphia), Ohio, are killed by militiamen in "retaliation" for Indian raids made elsewhere in the Ohio territory.

March 8, 1887: Congregational minister Henry Ward Beecher, an impassioned abolitionist and the most famous American preacher of his day, dies at age 73.

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March 8, 1948: The U.S. Supreme Court finds religious education in the public schools in violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution.

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