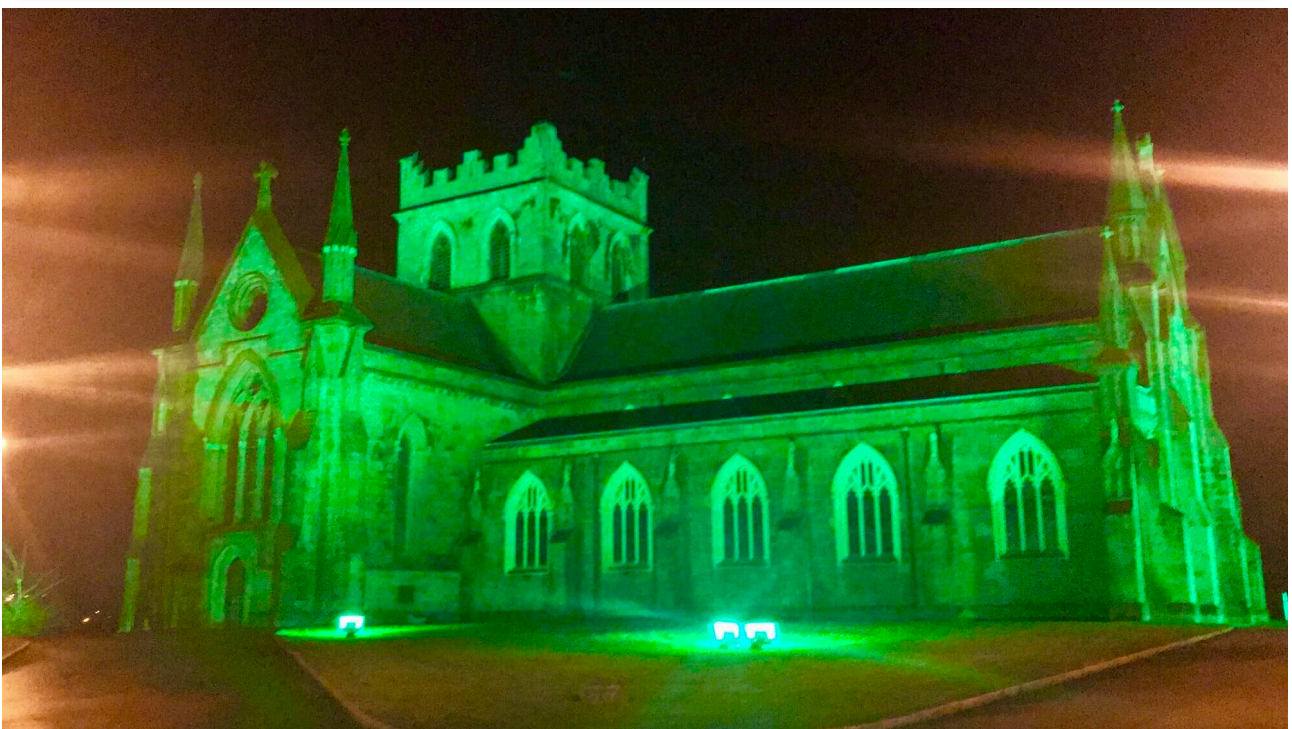


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Armagh's cathedral's go green for St Patrick's tide

Irish MU trustee at UN commission on the status of women

Mary Santo, Mothers' Union's Policy Adviser, is currently at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

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(UNCSW) in New York alongside the MU All Ireland President and trustee June Butler MBE.

They join women from across the Anglican Communion and thousands of others who are attending. Here they report on the opening day on March 11 - The Commission

on the Status of Women brings more than 9,000 representatives from civil society organizations to the United Nations over the course of the next two weeks. This year's theme is "social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls." This is a broad theme which touches upon many issues of importance to Mothers' Union and its global membership.

Representing Mothers' Union, many women from around the world gathered to observe the opening ceremony of the

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United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) in New York, marking the start of our time together.

In his opening statement, U.N Secretary General, Antonio Guterres said, “the world must come up with robust negotiating processes to end conflicts and bring peace”, adding that women are a critical sector that must be included at all levels.

Sharing the priority areas that he felt need to be addressed, Mr Guterres said that the Commission on the Status of Women could equally be called the “Commission on the Status of Power” “...because that is the crux of the issue”.

He added that “gender equality is fundamentally a question of power”, warning that the world had lost its way and there now seemed to be a pushback on women’s rights. Mr. Guterres – who called himself a “proud feminist” – contended that changing power relations, overcoming gaps and biases, and fighting to preserve gains, necessitates engaging women as equal participants in society.

“When we exclude women, everyone pays the price. When we include women, the whole world wins,” he stated.

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As he ended his speech there was much applause as he vowed to support the cause of gender equality in every way, concluding that “women are key in peace building and sustainable development of the world”.

During the official opening ceremony, a minute of silence was observed in honour of the 157 people who perished in the Ethiopian air crash last Sunday, including 21 employees of the United Nations.

Mary and June from Mothers' Union join delegates from across the Anglican Communion and womens' organisations who are attending CSW from around the world – each bringing their own experiences of Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. They are passionate about bringing positive change to their communities and being a part of the dialogue to urge their governments for better rights for girls and women across their life course.

Anglican Bishop in Europe implored MPs to rule out a no- deal Brexit

The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, Dr Robert Innes, yesterday implored MPs to rule out a no-deal “decisively” and to vote for extending Article 50.

Dr Innes said that no-deal would be a “devastating outcome” for the UK. He was speaking on Wednesday before MPs were due to vote on it, after a second decisive defeat — by 149 votes — of the Prime Minister's Withdrawal Agreement on Tuesday evening.

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Mrs May said that she “profoundly regretted” the outcome, and said that MPs would be given the free vote on whether the UK should leave the EU without a deal.

Dr Innes said: “I urge MPs to consider the British citizens who could face EU27 within weeks of a no-deal scenario, consider the vulnerable or elderly citizens who could lose their access to healthcare, the Erasmus-scheme students whose studies could be interrupted, the people whose jobs and livelihoods depend on a close relationship with the EU.”



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If MPs rule out no-deal, there will then be a further vote today (Thursday) on whether the Article 50 period should be extended and Brexit be delayed. Dr Innes said that he believed that this should happen.

“I hope and pray that the current tumult can be stabilised: we need a degree of clarity,” he said. “It is clear that the UK must now seek an extension period, and we need to reconsider all options of leaving that were laid out last year, including the Norway model, and negotiate a sensible timeframe to settle this in, keeping the UK within the European orbit.”

The Bishop of Burnley, in Blackburn diocese, the Rt Revd Philip North, posted on Twitter on Tuesday evening, when Storm Gareth had prompted a yellow weather warning for northern England: “It’s hard to work out which is the fiercer storm, Gareth or Brexit. But very easy to work out which will rage for the longer.”

Brexit and NI Assembly focus of Methodist Lenten prayers

The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Lay Leader of MCI urge us to pray for both Brexit and the N.I Assembly and for the implications of both across Ireland.

You can find more information on the ‘Pray For Our Land’ Lent campaign on the Irish Methodist website along with Brexit prayer points:

<https://www.irishmethodist.org/pray-for-our-land>

An example from the site -
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Take a moment to read this prayer and let it guide you as you intercede for our Land during this Lenten season:

- Loving Father, we thank you that you have revealed yourself to us in the Lord Jesus, especially in His life and death.

We praise you for your wonderful love which surrounds us and makes us confident that the good work you have begun in us you will carry on to completion until the day of Christ.

We recognise our daily dependence upon you for fresh grace and power to live a life manifesting the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

As we receive grace from you each day, so we pray for the needs of the wider community, and especially the restoration of the political institutions in Northern Ireland. We pray for the political leaders of all parties, that they would recognise their responsibilities to work together for the common good. We pray that both leaders and parties would engage meaningfully with each other at all levels, so that they might find a way to resolve the outstanding issues which continue to prevent the restoration of government.

We pray that the good relationships built up over years between the British and Irish Governments would continue to develop despite all the difficulties that Brexit has raised.

We remember the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and her officials as they continue their work of trying to facilitate further discussions between the parties.

We know that nothing is too hard for you and so we pray with confidence knowing that if we ask anything according to

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your will, you hear us as we approach you in prayer.
Through Jesus Christ. Amen



Armagh parish hosts “The Heavens Declare...”

A ‘world class’ panel of speakers contributed to a lively discussion of the wonders of space and faith at the recent ‘The Heavens Declare...’ event at St Patrick’s Church, Ballyclog, Diocese of Armagh.

Professor Michael Burton (Director of the Armagh Observatory and Planetarium), Professor Monica Grady CBE (Professor of Interplanetary and Space Sciences at

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The Open University), Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop Richard Clarke, and astronomer Terry Moseley (Irish Astronomical Association) all participated in a discussion chaired by the Rector, the Reverend Andrew Rawding.

The audience in the packed church was treated to the passion and scientific insights of the space scientists, as well as responses from the Archbishops focusing on their own awe, their understanding of the universe and the relationship between science and faith. Questions from the audience included enquiries about: ‘dark energy’ and ‘dark matter’; ‘black holes’; the potential for infra-red telescopes to detect extra-terrestrial life; and the role of women in space science.

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The main discussion ended with the Ballyclog Men's Choir leading singing of the hymn 'God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place'. Afterwards there was an opportunity for people to handle a meteorite fragment (4,576 million years old) and view the night sky with telescopes provided by the Irish Astronomical Association. The event was organised by the Friends of Ballyclog.

The Church is a sign of the unity of the human race – Archbishop Diarmuid Martin



Speaking on Tuesday night in Saint Patrick's College Maynooth, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin reflected on the social teaching of the Church, and its crucial role in shaping moral consensus on a global scale, as he delivered the annual Trócaire Lenten lecture on the theme 'At the Service of Justice and Peace'.

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At the outset of his address, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said: “The social teaching of the Church must be in touch with reality. It is, however, not an ideology. Neither is it a political or economic platform.

“The Gospels do not provide readymade answers to the ongoing challenges of a complex world. To affirm otherwise would be fundamentalism.”

Archbishop Martin, who is Archbishop of Dublin and vice-president of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference, referenced his time in a leadership position working with Cardinal Roger Etchegaray in the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, one of the few offices of the Holy See explicitly requested by the Second Vatican Council.

The Archbishop said: “Working at the Vatican is an unusual experience. I met there some of the most intelligent, committed and enlightened men and women dedicated to the service of the Church.

“At the Vatican, I also saw the darker and sadder side of Church life in a culture of careerism and nastiness. Cardinal Etchegaray and his successor with whom I also worked, Cardinal Van Thuan, who had been in prison for thirteen years in Vietnam, both belonged unmistakably to that first category and I am deeply indebted to both of them.”

In relation to the initiative of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, the Archbishop said: “The Messages for the World Day of Peace were indicative of the methodology of

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Congratulations to Eamonn Meehan from Kilmaley in Killaloe Diocese who received an honorary doctorate in Maynooth this week for his life long commitment to the work of Trocaire

the Pontifical Council. On 1 January 1969, Pope Paul VI had established the World Day of Peace.

“Paul VI wished to use this occasion to address a wide audience using a language that, though rooted in faith, could be appreciated by people of other beliefs and foster dialogue. This must still today be a mark of the Social Teaching of the Church.”

Speaking on how the social teaching of the Church is not bound to any strict form of political or economic ideology,
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the Archbishop of Dublin said: “I remember the uproar amid right wing economists in the United States – often Catholic led – when Pope John Paul in the Encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* drew attention to some elements of the socialist system that he felt should not be lost after the end of the cold war.

Perhaps his language could have been more nuanced, but to accuse Pope John Paul, as these economists did, of asserting moral equivalence between communism and

Migration is not just a social or legal problem. It is about people. It is about real people. It is about people who search for their dreams and for the ability to realise their capacity.

Migration has been a source of enrichment of culture and society for centuries. It is also about people who have nothing, who are exploited in the roots of their humanity. The way we treat migrants and especially refugees is a barometer of our humanity.

- Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

Annual Trócaire lecture 2019

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capitalism was to mistake the man. The neo-liberalism that appeared to have failed has given rise to equally damaging neo-populism.”

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin also highlighted the dangers of the current arms-race, particularly in terms of the increasing armament of middle-eastern countries. He said: “According to SIPRI, the majority of weapons sold by the United States in the last five years (52%) went to one country in the Middle East. The report does not mention it by name, but it refers to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has become the world’s largest arms importer, with an increase of 192% over the past ten years.

“Organizations like Trócaire can be to the forefront in establishing and sustaining international network campaigns which influence national and international public opinion and show how ethical concerns belong to the real world and that politics and pragmatism can be forced to listen.”

For public opinion to evolve, Archbishop Martin stated, that courageous forerunners are needed to take a principled and uncompromising stand.

He said: “Globalization will be worthy of its name if it enhances the unity of the human family. Any form of globalization that breeds exclusion, marginalization, instability and crass inequality does not have the right to call itself global.”

He stated that the Church is global by its very nature, and that the Church is a sign of the unity of the human race.

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The Archbishop of Dublin concluded: “We salute Trócaire and congratulate it for the bonds of unity that it establishes in directing the sense of Christian solidarity of Irish Catholics to help realise the dreams and aspirations of the marginalised. That bond of unity is Church.”

News briefs



+++WCC Ecological Justice Roadmap for Congregations, Communities and Churches - for an Economy of Life and Ecological Justice was launched at the WCC headquarters in Geneva on Tuesday, honouring the life and work of WCC Climate consultant, Rev Norman Tendis, who died in the Ethiopian plane disaster. May we faithfully carry forward the work he has begun!

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+++Appointed to canonry of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin - The Revd Andrew McCroskery has been appointed to the 12th canonry of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. The Vicar of St Bartholomew's, Clyde Road, Dublin 4, has been appointed by the Archbishop in succession to Canon Fred Appelbe who retired at the end of February.

Announcing the appointment, Archbishop Michael Jackson wished Andrew well in his new role. "Andrew has served St Bartholomew's assiduously for more than a decade. He has pioneered substantial and significant restoration work in regard to the fabric of the church and has kept worship going throughout this time. St Bartholomew's has a unique place in the life of Dublin and Glendalough Dioceses. Andrew's commitment to spirituality as a pathway to God along with his attention to liturgy endear him to many. I wish him well as he joins the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral," he said.

The appointment has been welcomed by Dean Dermot Dunne. He said: "I am very happy with the appointment of Fr Andrew McCroskery to the 12th canonry. Andrew brings a lot of experience to the cathedral chapter. He is a dedicated priest whose ministry is supported by a deep personal life of prayer and spirituality. I welcome his presence among us and I look forward to working with him in the future. I wish him every blessing in his new ministry".

Andrew was ordained a Curate to St Mark's in Newtownards in 1999. In 2002 he was appointed Dean's Vicar of St Fin Barre's Cathedral in Cork and became Rector of St Mary's Union in Youghal in 2004 before coming

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to St Bartholomew's in 2008. He was appointed Rural Dean of St Ann's Deanery in 2014.

He said he was looking forward to his new role. "I am delighted to be appointed by the Archbishop to be a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral and I look forward to entering this new role and getting to know the cathedral community and its life and worship," he said.

Andrew's installation will take place during Choral Evensong on Sunday March 31 at 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the cathedral crypt.

+++Rural Dean for East Glendalough - The Revd Nigel Waugh has been appointed Rural Dean of North East Glendalough by the Archbishop. Nigel, who is Rector of Delgany, succeeds Canon Fred Appelbe who retired at the end of February.

Making the announcement, Archbishop Michael Jackson, wished him well in the role. "I should like to thank Nigel for his willingness to undertake the role and work of Rural Dean. Nigel is known to us all throughout the United Dioceses by his being the editor of *The Church Review*, our diocesan magazine, which keeps us very much in touch with one another. Nigel has significant experience of the Church of Ireland, its people and its places. All who work with him will benefit from his expertise and carefulness. I wish him all that is best in this work," he stated.

The responsibilities of a Rural Dean is to assist the Archdeacon with the oversight of parishes within the Deanery, particularly in the case of a vacancy. He is also

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responsible for ensuring the maintenance of churches, glebes, parish records and parish silver within the Rural Deanery. North East Glendalough includes the parishes of Bray, Crinken, Delgany, Greystones, Kilternan, Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy with Calary, Powerscourt with Kilbride and Rathmichael.

March 14 in Christian history

March 14, 1872: Journalist Henry Stanley and explorer-missionary David Livingstone part company, having spent the last five months in Africa together. Stanley returned to England to write his bestseller, *How I Found Livingstone*. Livingstone, in the meantime, got lost again—in a swamp literally up to his neck. Within a year and a half, he died in a mud hut, kneeling beside his cot in prayer.

March 14, 1937: Pope Pius XI issues an encyclical against the Nazi "cult": "Race, nation, state . . . all have an essential and honorable place within the secular order," he wrote. "To abstract them, however, from the earthly scale of values and make them the supreme norm of all values, including religious ones, and divinize them with an idolatrous cult, is to be guilty of perverting and falsifying the order of things created and commanded by God".

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