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Cork city and clergy mark Bishop Colton's 20th anniversary



After the Service were (l-r) Dean Nigel Dunne, Mrs Susan Colton, the Bishop, and Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson.

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The Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Mick Finn congratulating Bishop Paul Colton after the Service, with the Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne (left) and Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson (right).

At the start of the meeting of Cork City Council on Monday, 25th March, the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Mick Finn, extended his warm congratulations to the Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary, that day, of his ordination and consecration as Bishop. Bishop Colton was consecrated in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin on the Feast of the Annunciation, 25th March, 1999 and has served since in Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

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The new pectoral cross

Earlier in the day, the Lord Mayor attended the regular Monday Eucharist at noon in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork. To mark the occasion, the Bishop was celebrant.

What Bishop Colton did not expect was to see the clergy of the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross gathered among the usual congregation, together with his colleagues from the Diocesan Office, and a number of close friends. The Director of Music at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Mr Peter Stobart, was present to play some carefully chosen hymns for the occasion, and an organ voluntary afterwards.

Another surprise, at the end of the Service and before the dismissal, was when the Archdeacon, the Venerable Adrian

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Wilkinson, spoke on behalf of the clergy of the Diocese, and then, on their behalf, the Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, presented Bishop Colton with a gift the clergy had commissioned: a pectoral cross. Made in Cork Silver by a silversmith adjacent to St Fin Barre's Cathedral, the pectoral cross was designed by Cathedral parishioner, Ruth Mahony, who was art teacher at Ashton School, Cork when the Bishop was a student there in the 1970s. The cross is one that features in the mosaics of the Cathedral floor, surmounted by a descending dove (representing the Holy Spirit) which is seen in a number of places in the Cathedral, including in the Pentecost window. The same cross and dove feature on the principal ciborium in the Cathedral used in the administration of Holy Communion.

Bishop Colton said, "I am so overwhelmed by all this and so grateful. The pectoral cross is such a thoughtful gift and brings together so richly so many aspects of this special place in Cork, and of what Christian ministry is. Thank you so much to everyone, and to all the countless people who have sent messages and also sent kind greetings on social media, a phenomenon that didn't exist when I was consecrated bishop in 1999. How rapidly times have changed and are changing: very exciting!

"I am especially grateful to the Archdeacon and to the Dean of Cork for springing the surprises - it's not often they catch me out, and to the wonderful clergy of this remarkable Diocese for their beautiful gift."

After the Service a light lunch was served in the ambulatory and even some tourists visiting the Cathedral came to join in the celebrations.

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Official opening of Methodist Church's Edgehill House



A service of dedication marking the official opening of Edgehill House was held on Monday last.

The Service which was conducted by the President, Rev Billy Davison, was attended by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of The County Borough of Belfast, Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle CBE, together with representatives of the Trustees and the Groups now housed in Edgehill House.

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The President expressed thanks to everyone involved in the practical arrangements for Edgehill House Opening and Dedication. He said, “It was my privilege as President to rededicate the building to the glory of God.

“It was wonderful to welcome Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant for Belfast, Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O’Boyle CBE and her husband, Mr Richard Jay.”

The Lord-Lieutenant brought greetings and spoke highly of the contribution the Methodist Church in Ireland has made to many areas of life.

“We pray that that this wonderful facility will bless all who come there to work, to meet, or to study”, the President concluded.

Plastic snake performance at St Patrick’s

You are invited to the cathedral in Dublin on 4 April at 6.45pm for the culminating performance of a community project on plastic waste. As a response to the environmental challenge that presents itself as the ‘snake of our time’ the Cathedral community commenced an initiative with the support of Dublin City Council to address the sheer volume of single use plastic consumed daily. Where better to begin than with our young people?

Artist and lead facilitator Annie Holland engaged young pupils in three locations in Dublin 8: Francis Street CBS,

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YMCA, Aungier Street & CMS Learning Centre to collect the single use plastic they use daily and collectively build a large snake. Throughout the engagement the participants discussed and explored the issues related to the volumes of plastic, and how they can best address and reduce this kind of waste filling our oceans and landfill sites.

Alongside this series of activity sessions, composer Eoghan Desmond created a piece of music to articulate the messages from the young people.

On April 4 the snake will wind its way through the Nave of Saint Patrick's, carried aloft by the creators with pupils from surrounding schools singing the lyrics – metaphorically banishing the snake from our communities and then presenting solutions to the gathered audience.

This is a free event but people are kindly requested to register in advance [here](#).

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C of I Historical Society spring meeting

The next meeting is on Saturday April 6 in the Robinson Library, Armagh. The library is located at the northwest entrance gate to the Church of Ireland Cathedral. Tea and coffee will be served from 10.30am and the first paper will start at **11am**.. Four speakers will give presentations - Prof. Rachel Moss (Trinity College, Dublin), Dr Andrew Sneddon (University of Ulster), and Dr Susan Hood (Representative Church Body Library, Dublin). The research paper will be delivered by Mr David O'Shea, who is pursuing his PhD at Trinity College Dublin. The conference is open to all members of the public.

There is a daily fee of €10 (or £7) for non-members to assist with conference expenses, payable at the registration desk which will be located in the Robinson Library, but anyone can become a member for €40 (or £35).

Those who join the Society will be given exclusive access to the podcasts which record these papers, particularly popular among those who are unable to attend either of our conferences in Armagh or Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin (in November).

Members will also be able to avail of significant discounts on select books that will be on sale on the day of the conference. For further details of the membership package please visit their [membership](#) page.

Details are on the society's web site at -

<http://churchofirelandhist.org/news/>

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Theologians compile resource to help ordinands and seminarians learn about gender justice



A new educational resource to help Anglican theological colleges, seminaries and training programmes teach about just relationships between males and females is being developed by the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN). An international theological working group, drawing members from across the Communion, met in Limuru, Kenya, earlier this month, to work on the study materials, "God's Justice: Just relationships between women and men, girls and boys".

The group had been convened by the IAWN "when it was recognised that the training, formation and equipping of

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church leaders and ministers in aspects of gender justice are essential as they prepare to show and tell the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Sacrament and Word and in the lives they live,” the IAWN said in a communiqué following the meeting.

The materials will be offered “as a component or module which can ‘stand-alone’ or be incorporated into existing curricula and training schemes for women and men who are preparing for ministry, lay or ordained, or who are continuing to develop their ministerial education”, the communiqué said. “Contributions to the study materials have been made by theologians from different contexts in the Communion. Their reflections invite critique and conversation in the context of engaged and respectful theological communities.”

The theological working group finalised a draft of the study materials, which will be presented to the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC-17) when it meets in Hong Kong next month.

[Click here](#) to download the IAWN communiqué in English

Pope Francis signs Apostolic Exhortation to young people during pastoral visit to Loreto

On the Feast of the Annunciation, Pope Francis signed his Apostolic Exhortation for the Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment. “*Christus vivit* – Christ lives” is a letter to the world’s young people that represents the fruit of the October Synod. The Vatican will release the full text in the near future.

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The Basilica of the Holy House in Loreto contains the walls of what tradition holds to be the house in



which the Virgin Mary lived when the Angel Gabriel announced that she was to give birth to Jesus.

During his visit to Loreto, Pope Francis spoke about the Exhortation and explained that there are 3 sections to the document, which mirror 3 phases of the Synod process. To explain this further, he outlined this process whilst referencing the story of the Annunciation.

“The first moment, that of *listening*, is manifested by the words of the angel: ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.’ It is always God who takes the initiative in calling people to follow Him”, said the Pope.

He went on to explain that young people need to find moments of quiet and stillness to listen to God’s call and that God’s voice will not be heard amongst noise and agitation.

Instead, quiet and stillness will help young people discover that “His plan for our personal and social life is not

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reminder of the link to donate to the PCI Moderators special appeal for those affected by Cyclone Idai. Dr McMullen: "I encourage us all in PCI to pray earnestly for those experiencing such unimaginable hardship, loss & suffering, and to give generously"

presbyterianireland.org/appeals

perceived by remaining on the surface, but by descending to a deeper level, where moral and spiritual forces act. It is there that Mary invites young people to come down and tune in to God's action."

Then comes the phase of discernment, which is "expressed in Mary's words: 'How will this happen?' Mary does not doubt; her question is not a lack of faith; on the contrary, she expresses her own desire to discover God's 'surprises'. In her there is attention to grasping all the demands of God's plan for her life, to knowing it in its facets, to make one's collaboration more responsible and complete."

Pope Francis said this is the proper attitude with which to follow God's call in our lives, since this attitude allows people to discover not only what God's plan is for their lives, but also how God's grace will help them to develop the skills and abilities needed to live out his call for them.

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“Decision is the third step that characterizes every Christian vocation, and it is made explicit by Mary’s response to the angel: ‘Let it be done to me according to your word.’ Her ‘yes’ to God’s plan of salvation, implemented by means of the Incarnation, is the handing over to Him of her whole life. It is the ‘yes’ of full trust and total openness to God’s will,” said the Pope.

He highlighted the Virgin Mary as the model Christian disciple and suggested that today’s young people try to imitate her example as they search for God’s plan for their lives.

The Pope pointed out that Mary had lived a multitude of family relationships.

She was a daughter, a fiancée, a bride and a mother, so all young people, no matter what their role in life and calling from God, can find an example and inspiration in her.

News briefs

+++Presbyterian Historical Society - “The Collegiad” is a new post on the Society’s web site. An article in The Bulletin of the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland (Vol 43) 2019 entitled ‘***No Surrender! The Magee College Controversy***’ by Eugene Dunphy refers to an epic poem "[The Collegiad](#)", documenting the story of the foundation of Magee College, by the Rev James Fleming. It is now available on the PHSI website - reproduced in full with short biographical notes at the end of those mentioned in the poem. See - <http://www.presbyterianhistoryireland.com/?p=12764>

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+++Farewell to Daphne - Daphne Metcalfe's farewell lunch took place at the C of I Theological Institute on the 22nd March 2019. Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott welcomed everyone and paid tribute to Mrs Metcalfe's 21 years of dedicated service. Her contribution to the life and witness of CITI was also celebrated by Ven Neal O'Raw spoke on behalf of the Archbishop of Dublin, and the Rev Nigel Pierpoint thanked Mrs Metcalfe on behalf of all the former students. Pictured are Mr Sandy Metcalfe, Ven Neal O'Raw, Mrs Daphne Metcalfe, Rev Nigel Pierpoint and Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott

+++Food for thought - The question is not "How am I to find God?" but "How am I to let myself be found by him?" The question is not "How am I to know God?" but "How am I to let myself be known by God?" And, finally, the question is not "How am I to love God?" but "How am I to let myself be loved by God?" Henri Nouwen in The return of the Prodigal

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News Links

[Fresh appeals for relief aid for Cyclone Idai survivors](#)

Irish Times

The **Church of Ireland** Bishops' Appeal has announced that it is releasing €10,000 in emergency funds to support relief efforts in Mozambique, ...

[No charges against Casey despite his niece's claims he sexually abused her](#)

[Independent.ie](#)

When contacted by the **Irish** Independent yesterday, a statement for Bishop of ... was one of the first major scandals to hit the Catholic **Church** in **Ireland**. ... The **news** scandalised Catholic **Ireland** and he was forced to leave the ...

Bishop Eamonn Casey accused of sexually abusing three women as children

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/bishop-eamonn-casey-accused-of-sexually-abusing-three-women-as-children-1.3838299>

[Belfast Church Targeted By Vandals](#)

[4ni.co.uk](#)

St Paul's **Church** on the Falls Road was targeted shortly before 2am on ... An SDLP MLA is encouraging people in Northern **Ireland** to sign an online ...

[Moy church first to benefit from Faith Fund](#)

The Irish News

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A church in Co Tyrone is to redevelop its parish hall as it becomes the first recipient of a new fund. St James' **Church of Ireland** in Moy has received ...

[First political murder in Irish War of Independence drew muted reaction](#)

Belfast Newsletter

By denomination, John was Plymouth Brethern but his wife and children are recorded as being **Church of Ireland**. The census informs us that he was ...

[Macosquin kids reach choir final](#)

Coleraine Times

Macosquin kids reach **choir** final ... Over the course of nine weeks, 62 **choirs** from across Northern **Ireland** have been singing to impress as they battle ...

[Sea of Change Choir to sing special tribute to those lost to cancer](#)

[Wicklownews.net](#)

The **choir** will be singing the song at the semi-finals of **Ireland's** Got Talent and will be a celebration of the lives of a long list of loved ones, and the ...

[Target vulnerable for donations, Church's new fundraising chief says](#)

[Telegraph.co.uk](#)

Last night a Christian charity said Mr Bernhardt Wood's language was “worrying”, and said the **Church of England** must “act with caution” when ...

[Church of England prods coal goliath to pursue more saintly endeavours](#)

Corporate Knights Magazine

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A key player on the Glencore file was the Church Commissioners, the mission-based investment arm of the **Church of England**. The US\$11 billion fund ...

Scotland's hate crime law must respect freedom of speech, bishops say

Crux: Covering all things Catholic

... on **religious** identity than **religious** belief and has been in the **news** recently after a ... Many of these reflect the tensions in Northern **Ireland**, and is reflected in the ... Only 7 percent were based on **religion**, and just 1 percent involved ...

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