



*Fun learning to sing a new hymn*

## Meet the Bishop Confirmation Morning in Cork

On Saturday, 4th March, Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, hosted his annual 'Confirmation Morning with the Bishop' for all those who, starting with the Sundays in the Easter season, will be confirmed in the Diocese in 2017.

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Once again the event was held in the Canon Packham Hall and Saint Luke's National School Hall in Douglas, County Cork. The morning started off with games, followed by group activities, as well as a chance to meet the Bishop in small groups and to hear from him about the Confirmation day. A willing group of volunteers – clergy and lay people – took part and helped to organise the event.

There was also a hymn to learn which will be sung at all of the Confirmation Services in the Diocese: a link to the morning together and the new friends from other parishes. One young person remarked 'I never knew that learning a new hymn could be this much fun!' The day ended with a final round of the hymn, and prayers, before everyone enjoyed some snacks and drinks.

## **Enniskillen bells to ring in solidarity**

The bells of St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, will be ringing on March 19 to signal solidarity with immigrants.

Taking place at 11.05am as morning service begins, the peal of 10 bells will ring out following an invitation to the Dean and bellringers of St.

Macartin's Cathedral from the Dean of Waterford, the Very Rev. Maria Jansson, who is originally from Sweden.

In the summer of 2014, a fascist demonstration was organised in the area surrounding Västerås Cathedral in Sweden. As the rally began, with swastikas and hate filled speeches, the cathedral bells tolled loud and clear over the city, drowning out the sounds of hate and racism

A spokesperson for St. Macartin's Cathedral stated: "It is time for the Christian message of love to raise its voice in protest and make a call to solidarity. At a time when there is worldwide fear and disquiet, we will use this opportunity to peal a very different message on that day, in protest and in hope."

The spokesperson described the rising cacophony of racism and xenophobia across the world as alarming and said sometimes symbolic actions can say it all.

"It is time for the Christian message of love to raise its voice in protest and make a call to solidarity in that there is joy, justice and hope for the future. At a time when there is worldwide fear and disquiet, we will use this opportunity to peal

a very different message on that day, in protest and in hope.

“Bells sound alarm but also a gathering of people for good. They are part of many cultures and religions, ringing out the old and bringing in the new.

“That the bells will ring on St. Patrick’s weekend is appropriate; St. Patrick was the stranger brought to this island as slave but who returned later in life to transform our history, bringing the Gospel of Christ, the gospel of love. St. Patrick’s Day is known across the world wherever the Irish have gone seeking sanctuary, opportunity and a new life. Issues of being the stranger and welcoming the stranger have been central to our cultural and often-troubled history. All bells ring throughout the country together, we hope to make a different sound: ringing out misogyny, hate, xenophobia, exploitation and fear: ringing in solidarity, truth and justice.”

## **Irish missionary to speak on conflict transformation methods in Queen's University public lecture**

Irish missionary, Fr. Patrick Devine of the Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution & Reconciliation in

## Kenya to deliver public lecture in Queen's University

The Senator George Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queen's University Belfast will host Fr. Patrick Devine SMA on Wednesday, 22 March at 4.30pm. The title of Fr. Devine's public lecture will be Inter-Ethnic Conflict Transformation Methods: Applications in Eastern Africa. It will have direct relevance to academics and practitioners working in a variety of conflict situations encompassing research-based religious and humanitarian perspectives.

Attendance at the lecture is free but advance booking is necessary. Booking and further details are available at

<http://www.gladysganiel.com/irish-catholic-church/who-will-win-the-tipperary-peace-prize-nominee-fr-patrick-devine-to-speak-at-queens-22-march/>.

Fr. Devine is the founder and Executive Chairman of the Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation - <http://www.shalomconflictcenter.org/> - based in Nairobi, Kenya. The Centre has signed a

memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Queens University through its Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice.

The memorandum aims to enhance the ability of both partners to undertake research into conflict transformation and reconciliation and to connect the perspectives of all those who seek to contribute to conflict transformation and social justice — from the insights of world leading researchers to the experience of practitioners, policy makers, politicians and activists. It strives to provide an environment within which all voices can be heard and to underpin the pursuit of peace through world class research which is focused on addressing the root causes of conflict.

The Shalom Centre also has an MoU with the Edward Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention at NUI Maynooth, as well as with the eight governments of eastern Africa that comprise the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and with the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA). In recent times it has been collaborating with the World Bank.

During his visit to Ireland, Fr. Devine, who is short-listed for the 2016 Tipperary Peace Prize, and was recipient of the Caring Award in the USA in 2013, will attend a fundraising event for Shalom in Co. Galway organised by The Galway Solicitor's Bar Association on 18 March.



## **Newbridge Gael Scoil choir raise €3,000 for Jack and Jill**

The Newbridge Gael Scoil Chill Dara have raised a fantastic €3,000 for the Jack and Jill Foundations from the proceeds of their CD.

The choir, which is based at the school on the Green Road, was delighted to present Hugo Jellett, CEO of the Jack and Jill foundation with the cheque last week.

The funds were raised by the children of Gael Scoil Chill Dara as part of their social entrepreneurship endeavours: children helping children.

Part-funded by a recording bursary from Kildare County Arts Service, and drawing on the additional talents of some of Kildare's best loved musicians, the school choir recorded an Irish-language CD, "Ding Dong Dederó", on behalf of Jack and Jill.

The CD features some of the most famous Irish songs and music, performed by The Nás na Rí Singers, In Caelo choir, Frankie Lane, Conor Mahony, Ruth O'Hara as well as almost every pupil from Gael Scoil Chill Dara, and the school choir.

The first tranche of CDs raised €3,000 during December 2016. The CD will be on sale again in December 2017, but is currently available from the office at Gael Scoil Chill Dara, to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge and St Patrick's Day.

The Jack and Jill Foundation is Ireland's only charity specialising in providing home-nursing care to brain injured children across Ireland, including more than a dozen in Co Kildare at this moment. Based on report in Leinster Leader



***Pope Francis addresses priests of the Diocese of Rome during a meeting at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome last week***

## **Pope Francis says the Church should reflect on married priests**

Pope Francis has said the Church should reflect on whether the “Holy Spirit” is demanding married priests.

In an interview with the German newspaper Die Zeit, the Pope was asked about the shortage of vocations in some dioceses. He referred to the idea of “viri probati”, in which married or unmarried laymen recognised as potential leaders are ordained as priests.

Francis said: “We have to reflect about whether the viri probati are a possibility. Then we also have to determine which tasks they could have, for example in far distant parishes... In the Church, it is always important to recognise the right moment, to recognise when the Holy Spirit demands something. That is why I say that we will continue to reflect about the viri probati.”

A few months ago, the Brazilian theologian Leonardo Boff said he had heard that the Pope might introduce a trial period for viri probati in Brazil.

The Pope also discussed the possibility of female deacons, saying that theologians should study the example of Scripture. “What did this mean at that time [of the Bible]? What does it mean today?” He added: “Don’t be afraid! That makes us free.”

Asked about Cardinal Raymond Burke, one of the four cardinals who have asked the Pope to

clarify Amoris Laetitia, Francis praised him as a “excellent lawyer” and said he did not think of the cardinal as an “enemy”.

## **Four religious Sisters killed in crash in Ethiopia**

Four Daughters of St Anne Sisters – including the provincial superior – were killed in a crash about 80 miles south of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Catholic Near East Welfare Association has reported.

Four other Sisters were travelling in the van when it was hit by a truck en route to Hawassa on Tuesday. One of these remains in a critical condition, CNEWA ( Catholic Near East Welfare Association) reported.

Mgr John Kozar, president of CNEWA, had visited the Sisters last April.

“The news of the traffic death of four Sisters in Ethiopia, the Daughters of St Anne, touches our hearts and souls very deeply,” Mgr Kozar said. “Having met the superior and many of the Sisters in previous pastoral visits, I know the Church of Ethiopia has lost some very devoted servants.”

“To their community and the entire Church of Ethiopia and its people, we offer our collective prayers and support. May God welcome these servants into his heavenly kingdom,” he said.

The provincial who died in the crash was Sister Weinsbet Gebru. The other victims were Sisters Motu Baba, Hanna Bekute, and Gedena Weldu.

The Daughters of St Anne have served in Ethiopia and Eritrea for more than 50 years. They run schools, health facilities, cutting and sewing schools, vocational training centres, orphanages, and a school for the visually impaired. They work with CNEWA on several projects.

## **Mission agency seeks Anglicans with a passion for global mission**

The Anglican mission agency USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) is looking for Anglicans with a passion for mission and the world church to become trustees.

As a number of USPG’s existing trustees complete their tenure, this is a rare opportunity to engage in global mission through an

organisation that has been working in mission for over 300 years since its foundation in 1701.

USPG is particularly keen to have a wide range of diverse opinions represented on the trustee board by recruiting more women and those who can represent minority groups, especially those with experience of global mission, development issues, and strategic management.

Trustee Rosemary Kempzell CBE, formerly worldwide president of the Mothers' Union and a director of South London Industrial Mission, said: 'Being a trustee gives me an opportunity to shape and contribute to the strategy and decision-making of USPG, and it has broadened my understanding and experience of global Christian mission.'

'Because it's a voluntary role, I would say the most important qualification for the role is to be deeply passionate about the mission in which USPG is engaged. It's useful to bring skills from previous work, but new trustees will also be learning new skills.'

Rosemary added: 'As a trustee, I've been challenged and pushed a little outside of my comfort zone. But I've found that the board of



trustees as a whole tends to pull together, which is a great feeling.'

All trustees are required to be communicant Anglicans.

Rosemary commented: 'The spiritual dimension is very important. The role of USPG is not to be in charge or issue instructions. Rather our aim is to let God light the way. In this respect, I can say that any differences in churchmanship have not been an issue. It's a different way of making decisions – we each might have our own areas of expertise, but essentially we are waiting on God and participating in God's mission.'

Among her many experiences of seeing God at work in her role, Rosemary cited USPG's partnership with the Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP) as an inspiring example. Through carefully strategising – and sheer bravery – ECP was able to extract itself from a position of financial dependence on churches in America.

'To see that happen was incredible,' said Rosemary. 'Independence was achieved through a lot of determination. In a sense, this was a perfect example of what global mission is about: a church dependent on a rich church in the west found its own independence and took charge of its own affairs. USPG's role was to work alongside them, listening and partnering.'

For more details about the trustee vacancies, please email Kathy McLeish at [kathym@uspg.org.uk](mailto:kathym@uspg.org.uk) and request an application form. The closing date for completed applications is Friday 24 March 2017 at 12noon.

## **News briefs & Upcoming events**

**+++ Director of Girls' Brigade to step down -**  
The Director of Girls' Brigade Ministries and Girls' Brigade England & Wales, Ruth Gilson, has announced that she'll be stepping down from [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

her role at the end of August 2017 - to prepare for ordained ministry in the Methodist Church.

**+++ Monaghan college thanks bishop** - St Macartan's College presented Bishop Emeritus Liam MacDaid with a specially created piece of glass artwork to mark his contribution over 60 years as student, teacher, counsellor, principal, administrator and bishop. The college was represented by Canon Shane McCaughey, President of St Macartan's, Marion McDonald, deputy principal and Raymond McHugh, principal.

**+++ Celebrating Local Schools art competition** - Last weekend the CPSMA (Catholic Primary Schools Management Association) held their annual conference in Dublin, which included a presentation by Minister Richard Bruton, Minister for Education and Skills to the winners of the CPSMA art competition 'Celebrating Local Schools': Rebecca Hynes, Vicki Zimeng Lin, Isabelle Maher, Tashuva Rafiq and Aisling Amponsah.

**+++ Seven seminarians were admitted to the Ministry of Acolyte** by Bishop Denis Nulty in St Patricks College, Maynooth. The seminarians are: Thomas Small (Kilmore), Shane Costello

(Tuam), Daniel Sheils (Kerry), Darren Baldwin (Kildare & Leighlin), Ronan Sheehan (Cork & Ross), Martin Shanahan (Killaloe) and Christopher Quinn (Down & Connor).

**+++ Lambeth retirement** - The Archbishop of Canterbury's head of staff, the Bishop at Lambeth, is stepping down. The Bishop at Lambeth, the Rt Rev Nigel Stock, has announced that he will be retiring in August.

**+++ Assembly speaker Robin Newton continues to be paid salary** - Current salary is £87,000 - made up of £49,000 for his role as MLA and £38,000 for the duties of speaker

**+++ Iconic Crumlin Road courthouse to become a hotel** - Crumlin Road courthouse in Belfast is understood to have been sold to Signature Living for a reported £500,000

**+++ 433 PSNI officers took stress leave last year** - There are currently around 6,800 PSNI officers in the north, meaning just over six per cent were off at some point due to stress

**+++Galgorm Group: Church Showroom Day** - The next event in the *Church Life* calendar will be the annual *Church Showroom Day* at the

premises of *Galgorm Group* on Thursday 23 March. The day offers an opportunity to view catering equipment, consumable supplies and furniture for the church buildings - as well as attending presentations which this year include:

- \* Ideas and Resources for Celebrating Easter in your Community
- \* Control of Substances Hazardous to Health - A Legal Obligation for Churches
- \* Floorcare - Because First Impressions Matter!
- \* Catering Equipment and Furniture Ideas for Your Church

[CLICK HERE](http://www.churchresourcesonline.com/) [http://](http://www.churchresourcesonline.com/)

[www.churchresourcesonline.com/](http://www.churchresourcesonline.com/) for full details of the *Galgorm Church Showroom Day* - and to book places to attend

**+++ Give real Easter Eggs** -To visit The Real Easter Egg website where you can order eggs for this Easter click here - <http://www.therealeasteregg.co.uk/>

**+++ Derry meeting of returned overseas volunteers and missionaries** - Have you ever volunteered overseas in any kind of profession or have worked as a lay missionary in Africa, Asia or South America? Would you like to meet up with like-minded people? Join us for our next meeting which takes place on Tuesday March 14th at 7.30pm at Bishop McKeown's house, [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

Buncrana Rd, Derry, next to St Columb's College. For more info email Jim [jim.farrell@amri.ie](mailto:jim.farrell@amri.ie) or phone/text + 353 83 8422468.

**+++ Ballymena rectory re-dedicated** - The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy conducted a service of rededication on Sunday March 5 at the newly improved and refurbished Rectory in Ballymena Parish. This marked the culmination of more than 12 months of hard work and planning within the parish. The rector, the Rev Mark McConnell, speaking on behalf of his family, thanked all concerned. “You have created both a wonderful home and a great place where we can share hospitality and be about God’s business together,” Mark said.

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