



## **Belfast schools set for 2019 Choir of the Year competition**

The St Anne Trust will welcome pupils and staff from 10 local schools to Belfast Cathedral on May 15 and 16 to participate in the annual 'Belfast Primary Schools' Choir of the Year' competition.

The trust was formed in 2016 with the aims of advancing education and promoting arts, culture and heritage through,

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among other things, encouraging good relations with and between young people and their families, particularly those from communities significantly affected by conflict, diversity or deprivation.

This is the third 'Belfast Primary Schools' Choir of the Year' competition, and it will involve schools from all parts of the city, including two special schools.

On the first day of the competition, more than 400 children will have the opportunity to sing together as this year's adjudicator, BBC art and music producer Richard Yarr, takes time out to decide on the winner. This will not be an easy task as it is anticipated the standard will be exceptional, as it has been in previous years.

Eight schools will compete on Wednesday, with special schools taking part in a 'Come and Sing' day on Thursday, which includes music workshops as well as performances.

The competition is once again supported by Belfast City Council. Lord Mayor Councillor Deirdre Hargey said: "Music has a special gift for bridging societal gaps, and this competition is no different – singing and performing in this group setting provides a forum for tolerance, respect, understanding and friendship to flourish among the city's young people."

The Lord Mayor paid tribute to the St Anne Trust for its vision of bringing primary school children together in a 'celebration of song.'

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This year the competition is also sponsored by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Trust Chairman Joseph Watson said: “We once again look forward to some wonderful choral singing in the beautiful St Anne’s Cathedral. For many of the children this is a first time opportunity to perform in such a large and impressive building, and the excitement, concentration and joy in their faces as they sing is a pleasure to behold.

“We are delighted that pupils from Jordanstown and Harberton special schools will join us again for our ‘Come and Sing’ day on Thursday as the children’s love of singing and making music are truly infectious.”

## **Emotional intelligence and internet safety focus for Dublin diocesan schools**

Emotional Intelligence and Internet Safety the Focus of Patron’s Day for Diocesan Schools: Primary school principals, clergy and members of boards of management from all over Dublin & Glendalough gathered in Liffey Valley yesterday (Thursday May 9) for the annual Patron’s Day conference.

Organised by the Diocesan Board of Education, this year’s conference focused on two themes. Dr Joe O’Connell spoke about building an emotionally intelligent school and Sinead Bartosik addressed the topic of internet safety.

The conference was opened by the Patron, Archbishop Michael Jackson. In welcoming principals, teachers

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**Ann Creaner (organiser), Dr Joe O'Connell (speaker), Senan Murray (organiser) and Rachel Harper (organiser) at the annual Patron's Day conference.**

members of boards of management and clergy, the Archbishop spoke of the importance of Patron's Day in enabling new and established people to network.

Taking up the twin themes of the day: Emotional Intelligence and Internet Safety he spoke of the importance of understanding both in an age where information as an end in itself had become a dominant force.

He referred to the importance of an understanding of both of these for all associated with school life in shaping and sustaining a culture of teaching, learning and living.

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Regarding patronage itself, Archbishop Jackson spoke of the way in which parents gave their children in loco parentis to the school. This brought with it a duty of care and a responsibility of safety. It also provided a tremendous opportunity to teachers to convey positive values of care for self and care for others to each generation of pupils.

He finished by wishing everyone what is best for the day ahead and by thanking the organisers for a relevant and imaginative programme. Principals, members of boards of management and clergy at Patron's Day 2019.

## **Bushmills Through the Wars exhibition**

The annual “Bushmills Through the Wars” exhibition, organised by Glenda Rodgers McCormick BEM of Dunluce Parish Church, returns for its 13th year this July.

The exhibition commemorates the men from Bushmills village who died in both world wars. All proceeds go to charity and this year the Bishops’ Appeal benefits from a portion of the funds raised.

It runs from Thursday July 11 to Sunday July 21, and is open to the public from 10am-5.30pm on weekdays and Saturdays, and from 2pm-5.30pm on Sundays.

Items on display include children’s artefacts, rations, fashions and a whole section on women’s role in the wars, a section on evacuees and lots more.

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Over the years, the /Bushmills Through the Wars/ exhibition has raised more than £40,000 for charity, and Glenda was awarded the British Empire Medal in this year's New Year's Honours list for her services to the community in Bushmills.

Entry to the exhibition, held in Dunluce Parish Centre, is £3 (children admitted for free). There will be the opportunity to relax and enjoy some homemade treats at the Forget Me Not vintage café.

Each year half of the proceeds are donated to Dunluce Parish Church. The other half are divided between The Poppy Appeal and a local charity which this year will be the Bishops' Appeal.

Inviting people to come along, Glenda said: "The exhibition centres on remembrance and the humanitarian side to war."

Many of the artefacts are from Glenda's own personal collections, built up over the years. Her father's cousin Robert Glenn was killed in action when HMS Hood was sunk and his uncle Jim McAllister was killed in action while serving as a submariner in the Royal Navy.

My father's grandmother, my great grandmother Katy McAllister, would take out an old battered and much loved suitcase filled with all her treasured photographs, letters, and medals of her only son and show them to me," Glenda said.

"I was always interested in these stories even as a child. When my dad died I inherited all these memories and they are very precious to me."

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Glenda said that a large number of men from Bushmills gave their lives in the Great War, many of them brothers.

Glenda said that people have been so moved by the exhibition that they donated medals, photographs etc to her. "They know that they will be put out each year for all the public to see and appreciate," she said.

The exhibition grows in size in collection and visitor terms. Tourists from all over the world call in when they visit Bushmills. The church is open so visitors can see the memorials.

"People are fascinated with what happened during both wars, some are interested in the weaponry which I am not," said Glenda. "Many are interested in the humanitarian side, which is what I try to put forward.

"Children love the evacuees and the rations, the ladies love the fashions, stockings, jewellery and cosmetics."

## **Pope authorizes pilgrimages to Medjugorje**

Pope Francis has decided to authorize pilgrimages to Medjugorje, which can now be officially organized by dioceses and parishes and will no longer take place only in a private capacity which as has so far been the case. The announcement was made today during Mass, at the parish shrine which has become a destination for millions of pilgrims, by the Apostolic Nuncio Luigi Pezzuto in Bosnia-



Herzegovina and Archbishop Henryk Hoser, the Holy See's Special Apostolic Visitor.

### *Pilgrimages do not authenticate known events*

The "ad interim" director of the Holy See Press Office, Alessandro Gisotti, responding to journalists' questions about the announcement, specified that the papal authorization must be accompanied by "care to prevent these pilgrimages from being interpreted as an authentication of known events, which still require examination by the Church. Therefore, care must be taken to avoid creating confusion or ambiguity from the doctrinal point of view regarding such pilgrimages. This also concerns pastors of every order and level who intend to go to Medjugorje and celebrate or concelebrate there even in a solemn way".

### *Pastoral attention*

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"Considering the considerable flow of people who go to Medjugorje and the abundant fruits of grace that have sprung from it - continued Gisotti - this authorization is part of the particular pastoral attention that the Holy Father intended to give to that reality, aimed at encouraging and promoting the fruits of good".

The apostolic visitor, concluded the ad interim director, "will have, in this way, greater ease in establishing - relations with the priests in charge of organizing pilgrimages to Medjugorje, as well as, safe and well-prepared persons, offering them information and indications to be able to fruitfully conduct such pilgrimages, - in agreement with the ordinary people of the place."

The Pope's decision comes a year after the appointment of Hoser, Archbishop Emeritus of Warszawa-Prague in Poland, as "Apostolic Visitor for the Parish of Medjugorje, on May 31, 2018.

Both that nomination and today's announcement do not, therefore, enter into doctrinal questions relating to the authenticity of the account of the six visionaries of what has happened in Medjugorje since June 1981, a phenomenon that has not yet been concluded. Of the six visionaries, at that time children or young people, three assure us that they still have a daily apparition of the "Queen of Peace", always at the same time in the afternoon and wherever they are: they are Vicka (who lives in Medjugorje), Marija (who lives in Monza) and Ivan (who lives in the United States but often returns home). A fourth visionary, Mirjana, says that she receives an apparition every month, on the 2nd, while for the last two this happens once a year

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## **Opposing bishops embrace after Archbishop Justin Welby's apology leads to agreement**

A debate in which opposing deeply held views on the issue of human sexuality were firmly but politely expressed threatened to sound a chord of disunity on the final full day of the seventeenth meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in Hong Kong on Saturday (4 May). But a prayerful discussion during a break in proceedings, and a subsequent apology from the Archbishop of Canterbury over invitations to the Lambeth Conference, produced a compromise resolution and hugs from two bishops who had early spoken in opposition to each other.

The debate was sparked by a draft resolution proposed by the Bishop of Oklahoma, Ed Konieczny, a member of the US-based Episcopal Church. The resolution sought to re-commit the Anglican Communion to the listening process called for in resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference, on human sexuality. But its wording proved to be controversial. Some members described it as “ambiguous” and one said it would provide “fodder to GAFCON” and cause a “red signal” in some provinces. The Primate of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, Ezekiel Kondo, spoke about the impact of the resolution in his home country. “What happens here has effect there”, he said. “If we pass this, and we are taking it to my country, tomorrow the Church would be closed.”

Bishop Ed gave an emotional response to attempts to alter the wording, saying that his heart was broken. He was



**Bishops Ed Konieczny from Oklahoma, Joel Waweru from Nairobi, and Eraste Bigirimana from Bujumbura, embrace after a passionate debate over a resolution on sexuality at ACC-17**

concerned at the message that would be sent if the Council rejected his draft resolution. "We respect you at a distance but you are not welcome", he said was the message that people would receive.

The meeting paused for prayer before round-table discussions. The meeting broke for an early extended tea-break, during which the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, together with Bishop Ed, the Bishop of Nairobi, Joel Waweru, and others, gathered to discuss the resolution.

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Some 45 minutes after the proceedings were suspended, the ACC's Vice-Chair, Maggie Swinson, announced that the meeting was going into an informal session. Archbishop Justin then took to the stage to deliver an emotional speech, which he translated into French and asked ACC members to translate into Spanish and Swahili.

In it, he apologised for the distress caused by his invitations to the Lambeth Conference – both to those opposed to his invitation to bishops in same-sex relationships; and to those opposed by his non-invitation to same-sex spouses.

He requested an indicative show of hands to test support for an amended motion which, in part, expressed “our concern around invitations to the Lambeth conference”, he explained. “That concern comes in two directions. The first is that certain people were invited and the second is that certain people were not invited. And different people are very deeply concerned by both. And that is my fault and my responsibility. . .

“Where I handled it badly, which I am sure I did, for one group or another, I want to apologise to you because I have not helped the Communion. . . I ask your forgiveness where I made mistakes.”

He said that the amended motion would call on him, as one of the Instruments of Communion in the Anglican Communion, with responsibility as a focus for unity, to initiate a “listening process . . . with supportive and independent facilitation in order to hear the concerns and voices of people especially those who have felt themselves marginalised with regard to sexuality.”

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The amended motion also called on the Archbishop “to look at all issues of discrimination across the Anglican Communion and make recommendations to the Standing Committee and to report back to ACC18.”

He told the members of the ACC: “I give you my word, I promise you, I will make sure this happens neutrally and independently”.

The indicative show of hands showed universal support for the amended motion. Once the meeting resumed in formal session, it passed with 83 votes in favour and none against. There were three abstentions.

The amendment was formally moved by the Bishop of Nairobi, Joel Waweru, from the Anglican Church of Kenya. It was accepted by Bishop Ed, who told the meeting: “out of respect and love and affection for our archbishop and out of love and affection for our member churches, and especially for my brothers in the global south, and for the unity of the church,” he was “willing to accept this amendment from my brother, Joel.”

After the result was announced, Bishop Joel and the Bishop of Bujumbura, Eraste Bigirimana, from the Anglican Church of Burundi, approach Bishop Ed and the three embraced. As they did so, Council members began an impromptu rendition of the Taizé chant “Bless the Lord, my soul” after one member began singing it solo.

The amended resolution, as passed by the ACC reads:  
*The Anglican Consultative Council*

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- 1. notes with concern the pattern of invitations to the Lambeth Conference 2020 and requests that the Archbishop of Canterbury as a focus of unity ensures that a listening process is put in place with supportive and independent facilitation in order to hear the concerns and voices of people especially those who have felt themselves marginalized with regard to sexuality. The Archbishop of Canterbury will also be responsible for compiling all the work done in this area across the Anglican Communion since Lambeth 1998 and reporting to the Standing Committee [of the ACC] and ACC18.*
- 2. requests the Archbishop of Canterbury to look at all issues of discrimination across the Anglican Communion and make recommendations to the Standing Committee and to report back to ACC18."*

## **Today in Christian history**

**May 13, 1917:** Three shepherd children report that the Virgin Mary appeared to them in Fatima, Portugal.

**May 13, 1925:** Florida's House of Representatives passes a bill requiring schools to conduct daily Bible readings.

**May 13, 1963:** A.W. Tozer, Christian and Missionary Alliance pastor and devotional author of *The Pursuit of God* and *The Knowledge of the Holy*, dies.

**May 12, 1543:** British Parliament prohibits any "women or artificer's prentices, journeymen, servingmen of the degree of yeoman, or under, husbandmen or labourers to read the New Testament in English."

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**May 12, 1792:** Father of Modern Missions William Carey publishes his highly influential (though deplorably titled) book on the importance of evangelism, *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians, to use means for the Conversion of the Heathens in which the Religious State of the Different Nations of the World, the Success of Former Undertakings, and the practicability of Further Undertakings, are Considered.*

**May 12, 1861:** Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic," published in the *Atlantic Monthly* three months earlier, is first performed at Fort Warren, Massachusetts, during a flag-raising ceremony for new Union recruits.

## **News briefs**

**+++Terry Waite to visit Belfast Book Festival** - Terry Waite, an official of the Church of England, made 3 trips to Lebanon in an effort to free westerners held hostage there. On his 3rd try in 1987 he was taken hostage & not freed until almost 5 yrs later. Come hear his remarkable story at BelfastBook - [https://twitter.com/hashtag/BelfastBook?](https://twitter.com/hashtag/BelfastBook?http://bit.ly/BBF19TerryW)  
<http://bit.ly/BBF19TerryW>

**+++ Bangor Abbey Annual St Comgall Lecture** - the Annual St Comgall Lecture in Bangor Abbey Parish Centre on Saturday 18 May 2019 at 11.30am. This year the speaker will be Dr Kylie Murray, Lecturer in the faculty of English Language and Literature at Balliol College, Oxford. Dr Murray will be discussing Boethius (c. 480-525), one of the most influential early medieval philosophers. Boethius' most famous work, 'The Consolation of Philosophy', was the most widely translated and reproduced work from the 8th century until the end of the Middle Ages. The Lecture will

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show how his work circulated in the Medieval world and the links that existed between Scotland and Ireland in the 12th century. Donation is £7.00 and we hope you will stay for soup & rolls and tea/coffee after the talk.

**+++ Methodist presence at the Balmoral Show** - Northern Ireland's Premier Agricultural Event, the Balmoral Show, opens this Wednesday 15th – 18th May. It's a wonderful occasion to showcase the very best that this country produces, and there's lots for everyone to see and do. The Methodist Church in Ireland has a stand at the event each year as a witness for Christ, and to explain what Methodists believe. The President of IMC, Rev Billy Davison comments, "I would encourage you to make a special effort to find our stand and call for a chat. Jesus called his disciples to be like salt and light in this world, so that others may see He is alive. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matt 5:16) "

**+++ The Sperrin Choir in concert** - "Country & Gospel Songbook" in First Presbyterian Church Garvagh (Bridge Street/Kilrea Road, BT51 5LP) on Friday 31 May 2019 at 8.00 pm. This choir has just returned from a very successful concert weekend in Plérin, Brittany, France.

**+++ Kilbroney Adventure Camps still attract** - The Kilbroney Adventure Camps continue to be a source of inspiration and encouragement in the diocese. The news from DDYC is that 68 young people have applied to be camp leaders this summer. and that includes some new faces.

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*Middle Camp is also full and there are just a few places left on the Junior, Senior and J.A.M Camps so move quickly to secure your place!*

“We’re especially excited to see so many young people join the DDYC team as volunteer leaders,” says Diocesan Youth Development Officer, Tim Burns.

“Some of them are former campers, others have come out of the SERVE Young Leaders Course and some through their connection to Saturday Night Live. It’s always been our ambition to raise up new young leaders so it’s encouraging to see it happen through our own youth programmes.

Camps couldn’t happen without them!”

### **Camps**

Our Kilbroney Adventure and J.A.M. camps are a wonderful mix of exciting outdoor activities, arts and crafts, teamwork and leadership skills plus daily devotions to explore faith. All of this happens amidst the beautiful surroundings of the Kilbroney Centre.

This year we’ll be offering new activities – it just gets better and better!

### **Cost**

**£155** per person for Junior and Senior Camps. **£75** per person for J.A.M Camp

This price includes all activities, food, accommodation, welcome pack and t-shirt.

**Discounted places:** 15% discount off the cost for 2 or more siblings attending the camps.

### **Dates for 2019**

- 28 July–1 August Kilbroney Adventure Camp for Juniors
- 2 August–6 August Middle Kilbroney Adventure Camp
- 7–11 August Kilbroney Adventure Camp for Seniors
- 12–14 August J.A.M. Camp

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Places are allocated in order of applications received. Note closing date is May 31.

**Download the 2019 brochure and application form here.**

**+++ Internships in Down & Dromore** - Internships are an ideal way to gain experience of working in a church or community setting and there are several opportunities coming up in the diocese for 2019/20.

### **The Kilbroney Centre**

The Kilbroney Centre's rapidly expanding ministry needs dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers who will work with us as Interns from September 2019 to August 2020. If you are aged 18–25, passionate about Jesus and want to reach and serve others, this could be for you.

Find out more

*Closing date for applications: Monday 8 July 2019*

### **Bangor Parish**

Want to go for an adventure, seeing God's Kingdom come in Bangor and beyond? Embrace the adventure and spend a year to remember with Bangor Parish Church.

Find out more

*Closing date for applications: Monday 26 August 2019*

### **Willowfield Church**

The new Intern Programme will begin on Monday 12 September 2019. There will be a number of intern streams to choose from, which will allow you to focus on one particular aspect of ministry alongside the general day-to-day work of the church.

Find out more

*Closing date for applications: Monday 26 August 2019*

**+++ Please pray for** - Rev Graham Stockdale – Chaplain in Maghaberry Prison. Pray that in his daily work and

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conversations Graham will have many opportunities to speak to prisoners and staff about the gospel. Pray that many prisoners will be open to talk about spiritual matters and that they will find hope and new life in Christ.

**+++ Heritage and identity** - In the late 1960s Professor Richard Rose conducted a survey of opinion in Northern Ireland about national identity. Of the Protestants, nearly all of whom we can assume were unionist and carried British passports, 20% saw themselves as Irish, 32% as Ulster, 39% as British, and the rest as a mixture of these identities.

The following decades, however, would witness a dramatic drop in the percentage of Protestants who viewed themselves as Irish. The figure fell to 8% in 1978, 4% in 1989 and 1% in 1993.

**+++ Food for thought** - "To have Faith in Christ means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him." CS Lewis

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