



## C of I Bishop of Cork meets Pope Francis

In Rome, on Wednesday 10th May 2017, at the conclusion of the General Papal Audience, the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, had the honour of being presented to His Holiness Pope Francis.

Bishop Colton said: It was an immense honour to attend the General Papal Audience on Wednesday 10th May. To say that I was surprised to be given a seat at the front, with 5 bishops also visiting from other churches (from the U.S.A., Scotland, Russia and Assyria), and to be presented to and to speak with His Holiness Pope Francis, would be an understatement.

“In the course of our brief conversation I brought him greetings from Cork, Cloyne and Ross. I also said to him I hope that, if he comes to Ireland, he will come to Cork! I am very grateful to Bishop John Buckley and his office, particularly Dr Tom Deenihan, for arranging to make all this possible.”

## **C of I Archbishop to take part in unique beatification ceremony today**

Archbishop Michael Jackson will take part in a historic ceremony in Dublin tomorrow (Saturday May 13). The beatification of Fr John Sullivan takes place in the Jesuit's St Francis Xavier Church on Gardiner Street. It will be the first beatification to take place in Ireland and in an unprecedented move, the formal request for

beatification will be made by an Anglican as well as a Catholic Archbishop.

The principal celebrant will be Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. He will be assisted by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin.

Fr Sullivan was raised and spent half his life as a member of the Church of Ireland. He was born on Eccles Street in 1861, the son of Edward Sullivan who would become Lord Chancellor of Ireland and Elizabeth Bailey from Cork. He attended Portora Royal School near Enniskillen and then Trinity College Dublin before studying law in London.

He converted to Catholicism in 1896 at the age of 35 and was ordained a Jesuit priest in 1907. He taught at Clongowes Wood College until his death in 1933 aged 71. He was known for his life of prayer and work with the poor and ill. His Cause was opened in 1944 and in 2014, Pope Francis declared him Venerable and said that he had lived a life of heroic virtue. The Congregation of Causes concluded that his prayers had cured a Dublin woman of cancer. One more miracle is needed before he can become a saint.

Previously, Archbishop Martin has said that “the holiness of John Sullivan was the fruit of his education in both Catholic and Church of Ireland traditions”.

Archbishop Jackson, also a former student at Portora, has said that Fr Sullivan’s “holiness has a strong ecumenical feel to it, as he never rejected the influence of the Anglican tradition on his spiritual flourishing”.

The beatification ceremony takes place at 11.00 am today.

## **Memorial Service for Dean Victor Griffin**

A memorial service for the former Dean of St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin, the Very Revd Victor Griffin, will take place this Sunday, May 14, at 3.15 pm in the cathedral. The service will be attended by President Michael D Higgins and the current Dean, the Very Revd William Morton, will preside. The preacher will be the Archdeacon of Dublin, the Ven David Pierpoint.

Dean Griffin died earlier this year (January 11 2017). He was Dean of St Patrick’s Cathedral from 1968 to 1991.

Born in Carnew, County Wicklow, in 1924, Dean Griffin was educated at Kilkenny College and Trinity College Dublin. He was ordained in 1948 for curacy at St Augustine's in Derry. He served a second curacy at Christ Church in Derry where he became Rector in 1957 until 1968 when he was appointed Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral. He retired in 1991 and was living in Limavady.

Victor Griffin married Daphne Mitchell of Londonderry at All Saints', Londonderry in May 1958; a teacher, she died of Multiple Sclerosis in 1998. The couple had twin sons, Kevin and Timothy, born in 1959.

## **Bishop urges Christians to take part in Canterbury prayer initiative**

Bishop Harold Miller of Down & Dromore is urging Christians to engage fully in the prayer initiative launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

'Thy Kingdom Come' will run from Ascension Day to the Day of Pentecost, Thursday, May 25 to Sunday, June 4 respectively.

In addition to having been picked up by Anglicans all over the world, 'Thy Kingdom Come' has sparked much ecumenical interest.

The Coptic Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church and some of the black-led Pentecostal churches are among those to have shown particular interest. Praying that people should know Jesus is not only our Lord's great desire; it seems also to draw Christians together across historical and cultural divides.

With the days between Jesus' Ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost being among the most significant in church history, 'Thy Kingdom Come' focuses minds on the importance of this world-changing period.

The website <https://www.thykingdomcome.global> provides ideas for prayer and free-to-download resources.

Suggestions include a number of focused activities and events, from 24/7 prayer, to prayer walking, prayer stations, children's prayer times and half-nights of prayer between May 25 and June 4.

Christians are urged to sign up on the website and [pledge2pray](#)

## **Two day Kairos course at Castlewellan**

Kairos is hosting two days of discipleship training for those keen to help their local church and the wider world.

The Bible teaches that God's love embraces and extends to every race, people, tribe and tongue.

Using scripture and history, Kairos attempts to show what God has done and is doing today in the world, while helping course participants to explore how they might reflect His heart for the nations.

From Monday, June 12 to Wednesday, June 14 at Castlewellan Park, Kairos will be holding an introductory course for congregational leaders.

The aim is to show how they can help their church develop its understanding of and engagement in God's global mission.

Internationally renowned, Kairos works with and for individuals and church groups as part of its discipleship programme.

The experienced Kairos facilitators are drawn from mission agencies and churches based in Northern Ireland.

Part-sponsorship has been secured, so the all-in cost for accommodation and food is just £20. However, with the course expected to attract a large number of applicants, places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, visit [www.simplymobilising.org.uk/5-courses/kairos](http://www.simplymobilising.org.uk/5-courses/kairos)  
To book, contact Mike Ewan at [mike-ewan@simireland.co.uk](mailto:mike-ewan@simireland.co.uk) or phone him on 028 9045

## **Irish vocations link with Pope's visit to Fatima**

Vocations Sunday was marked in Ireland this year with the launch of a new vocations prayer initiative – #Pray4Vocations.

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. To coincide



with this event the Bishops' Council for Vocations in collaboration with Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society, the Knights of Saint Columbanus and Vocations Ireland are asking that on the opening day of the centenary celebrations on Saturday 13 May, a time of prayer will be held for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life in Ireland.



## **#Pray4Vocations**

Pope Francis will be in Fatima for the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on 13 May where he will canonise two of the visionaries of the Marian apparitions there – the young shepherds Jacinta and Francisco Marto. Here in Ireland on the

same day people are invited to pray the Angelus or a decade of the Rosary for vocations to the priesthood and religious life at 12noon. It is also encouraged that on the 13th of each month, from May – October 2017, that a decade of the rosary be prayed for vocations in Ireland.

Commenting on the prayer initiative Father Willie Purcell, National Coordinator for Diocesan Vocations said, “This is an invitation to prayer we are extending to parishes, schools and families. Pope Francis said that ‘vocations are born in prayer, and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit’”.

Welcoming the new prayer initiative, Margaret Cartwright, Director of Vocations Ireland, said, “Vocations Ireland are delighted to be part of the joint prayer initiative because praying for vocations is the most important aspect of vocation promotion and working together to create a culture of vocation is so important in our world today. Pope Francis has called for a fresh and courageous perspective when helping youth discern and discover their vocation, prayer is key to that discernment process.”

Kieran Hickey, the Dublin Diocesan President of Saint Joseph’s Young Priests Society, said that

they are fully supportive of this prayer initiative, as prayer is the source of priestly vocation.

Commenting on this new prayer initiative Barney Mac Mahon, Supreme Knight with the Knights of Saint Columbanus said, “We can’t understand our calling and our vocation until we listen to the Lord, until we look upon the Lord and until we realise who it is we’re really serving.”

The prayer initiative was launched as part of the annual Vocations Sunday Mass that was broadcast on on RTÉ One Television on Sunday 7 May. Father Purcell said that the prayer initiative ties in with Pope Francis’ message for Vocations Sunday in which he said, “I ask parish communities, associations and the many prayer groups present in the Church, not to yield to discouragement but to continue praying that the Lord will send workers to his harvest.” Those taking part in the prayer initiative are invited to use the social media hashtag #Pray4Vocations.

## **Justin Welby is a heretic, say breakaway conservative Anglicans**

Justin Welby is a 'heretic' and a 'wolf in sheep's clothing', according to the conservative Church responsible for consecrating a breakaway

bishop in Newcastle outside the authority of the Church of England.

An explosive lecture delivered at the Jesmond Conference for conservative evangelicals earlier this year further reveals the depth of division and distrust as traditionalists plot a splinter Anglican Church in the UK.



**Bishop Martin Morrison, from the Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church in South Africa (REACH-SA), which oversaw the consecration of Jesmond Parish Church's senior minister Rev Jonathan Pryke as a bishop**

Highlighting the level of concern over the CofE's teaching on homosexuality, Bishop Martin Morrison of the conservative breakaway Anglican Church in South Africa that oversaw the **consecration of Jesmond's senior minister**

as a bishop, accused the archbishops of an ancient Christian heresy called Arianism.

'It is quite obvious that the establishment of the Church of England is at the very least heretical,' the conference of church leaders was told. 'They are wolves, they are false teachers, they are hired hands. We get pretty much common agreement on that.'

Describing the Church's debate around transgender people as a 'tidal wave which will engulf us', Morrison went on to advocate 'different ways of opposing the establishment'.

In the February 28 lecture he went on: 'The stakes cannot be higher.'

He added: 'In my opinion the Archbishops of York and Canterbury can no longer be trusted.'

He said the best way would be to consecrate 'irregular bishops' to work in England without the permission of the official Church of England.

'We are not looking for the authority of Canterbury or York. In my opinion you don't ask the wolf if you can look after the sheep,' he said.

Pitting conservative evangelicals as on the right side of a 2,000 year old theological controversy, he said 'ordaining ministers and consecrating bishops without the permission of the local diocesan bishops' was 'a great model' to follow.

Morrison argued the CofE was guilty of the ancient heresy which teaches that Jesus was not fully God because, he said, they thought Jesus was 'wrong' when he quoted Genesis 1:27, which says God created humans as 'male and female'.

'As I understand it here in England there is just no way the system will allow you to depose of evil ministers.

'I think one of the key alternatives is therefore to consecrate valid, legal Anglican bishops. They will be irregular but both legal and valid,' he said.

'I cannot see any other way than consecrating bishops who are orthodox without the authority of the diocesan bishops or [the Archbishops of] York or Canterbury because they cannot be trusted.'

It comes after a **document seen by Christian Today** reveals extensive plans by conservative

evangelicals to form a rival Anglican structure to the Church of England in the UK.

The proposals, born out of concerns about teachings on homosexuality, include suggestions for a new synod, new liturgy, an appointments system for new bishops, new church canons and new statements of belief.

## Today in Christian History, May 13

**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.

## Today in Christian History, May 14

**May 14, 1572:** Gregory XIII, who reformed the Julian calendar into the calendar used today and

celebrated the killing of French Huguenots (Protestants) with a Te Deum (a Latin hymn), is named pope.

**May 14, 1607:** Robert Hunt holds the first Anglican service in the New World Day after the Virginia Company lands in Jamestown.

**May 14, 1759:** Anglican evangelical John Berridge preaches his first outdoor sermon. Outdoor preaching became a prominent feature of his ministry, as it did for George Whitefield, John Wesley, and the early Methodist movement as a whole

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