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Mothers' Union admitted to Community of the Cross of Nails



Mothers' Union Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, receives the Cross of Nails from the Revd Canon Sarah Hills

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The work of the Mothers' Union in reconciliation and peace-building has been recognised by the Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN).

The CCN is part of the work of Coventry Cathedral's international reconciliation ministry team. Membership of the Community is given to churches, peace-building centres and educational and training organisations in recognition of their reconciliation work. The Community, which has more than 200 members, is inspired by Coventry's story of destruction, rebuilding and renewal.

Coventry Cathedral was destroyed in a German bombing raid on 14 November 1940, in an attack that lasted more than 10 hours and left more than two thirds of the city's buildings destroyed or damaged. In the days that followed, two enduring symbols emerged from the rubble: two charred roof-beams which had fallen in the shape of a cross were bound and placed at the site of the ruined altar, and three medieval roof nails were also formed into a cross, which became the original Cross of Nails.

That original Cross of Nails is located at the High Altar in the new Cathedral; and has been used as the symbol of the cathedral's international reconciliation work. Archbishop Justin Welby, who worked in Coventry Cathedral's reconciliation ministry before becoming Archbishop of Canterbury, wears a pectoral cross in the shape of the cross of nails. And replicas of the original cross are presented to organisations when they are made members of the Community.

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On Monday past during “a poignant service” in the chapel at the Mothers’ Union’s international headquarters – Mary Sumner House in Westminster, London – the 143-year-old Anglican mission agency was admitted as a partner to The Community of the Cross of Nails. Canon Sarah Hills, who oversees Coventry’s reconciliation ministry, presented a replica Cross of Nails to MU Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey.

“It is a great honour to receive the Cross of Nails and to be partners in a worldwide network of peace builders,” Lynne Tembey said. “Being a part of the Community of the Cross of Nails affirms who we are at our core – a movement of men and women contributing to peace and reconciliation at all levels, from the fellowship of friendship over a cup of tea to conflict zones, Mothers’ Union members embody the spirit of what the Cross of Nails is all about.”

After the cross was formally received, it was passed around congregation before being placed on the chapel’s altar, where it now stands. The cross is made up of three large nails and at its base is written “Father Forgive” – the words written on the wall of the remains of the chancel by Provost Dick Howard in 1940.

The Mothers’ Union is active around the world and is particularly engaged in peace and reconciliation work in South Sudan and Uganda.

“Your members are on the frontline of peace-making”, Canon Sarah said during the service. “The work you do is about peace. It is your work and we thank you.”

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Returned Heart of St Laurence to go on public display

After going missing in 2012 the relic of the Patron Saint of Dublin is finally back on display in Christ Church Cathedral.

Stolen six years ago, the Heart of St Laurence O'Toole was thought to have been lost forever from the chapels of Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin.

But after a garda investigation and an anonymous tip-off, the ancient relic was found this year and will now be back on display for the public tomorrow.

Reverend Dermot Dunne of Christ Church Cathedral says he held a belief that the heart would come back.

It's a tangible link with the past and with a saint that's revered as the Patron Saint of Dublin.

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Born in Co Kildare in 1132, St Laurence was bishop of Glendalough before becoming Archbishop of Dublin during the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland.

He would later die in Northern France while on pilgrimage to Rome in 1180. He was made a saint in 1226.

The Heart was on free public display yesterday with a special ceremony in the evening.

Rector welcomed to Lisburn parish



Clergy with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Lisburn and Castlereagh, Councillor Uel and Mrs Jennifer Mackin, at the institution of the Rev James Boyd in Derryvolgie.

St Columba's Parish Church, Derryvolgie, was packed on Tuesday evening, November 13, for the institution of the Rev James Boyd as rector.

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The Rev James Boyd and his wife Shirley at his institution service in St Columba's, Derryvolgie.

James was instituted by the Bishop of Connor's Commissary, the Ven Dr Stephen McBride. The preacher was the Rev Barry Forde, Chaplain and Dean of Residence at Queen's University, Belfast.

Among the guests at the service were the Lord Mayor of Lisburn and Castlereagh, Councillor Uel Mackin, and his wife, Lady Mayoress Jennifer Mackin.

James is married to Shirley and they have two daughters, Rebekah aged nine and Hannah aged five.

He is a past pupil of Ballymena Academy and has a degree in computer programming from Ulster University. He worked

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in computer programming for a short time, but felt God was calling him to some level of ministry.

James worked with the Church of Ireland Year Out team in 1998-99, and during his 12 months he helped in 26 different churches across Ireland, doing short term mission work.

He was appointed Youth Ministry Co-ordinator in Moira and spent five years developing and delivering youth work in the parish.

James left in 2004 to begin training for ordination at the Church of Ireland Theological College in Dublin. After ordination he was curate in the parish of Magheralin with Dollingstown, Diocese of Down and Dromore, for four years before his appointment as rector of Holy Trinity, Dromore, Co Tyrone, Diocese of Clogher.

James moved to Willowfield Parish, Belfast, as Vicar in 2015.

James said: “We feel a real sense of God’s call. Derryvolgie is a parish which has been in our hearts for a long time. We see a lot of opportunity in this place. It will be different but good.”

Pope Francis to visit Morocco in March

Pope Francis will make a two-day apostolic visit to Morocco next year, the Vatican announced.

Accepting an invitation from Moroccan King Mohammed VI, the Pope will visit the cities of Rabat and Casablanca on March 30-31, the Vatican said in a statement released. A detailed schedule for the trip will be released later.

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Oireachtas Foreign Affairs Committee members met with Christian Aid Country Manager in Brazil Sarah Roure to receive an update on the political situation there and its impact on the work of aid agency's and human rights defenders.

News of a possible visit by Pope Francis became public earlier in the year when Vincenzo Abbinante, Italian honorary consul to the Kingdom of Morocco, said that government authorities were coordinating preparations with the Vatican.

Abbinante told Italian news agency Turiweb on May 24 that the Pope's visit would highlight the importance of Morocco

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Register online for Christian Aid Ireland's Service of Thanksgiving at 6:45pm on Monday 19 Nov, to remember and give thanks to people in whose memory donations have been given, and those who've left a legacy for CAI's work: <http://bit.ly/2QHqVjr>

as "a center of excellence in intercultural and interreligious dialogue."

Many people had expected the visit to take place earlier to coincide with the Dec. 10-11 Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, a document Pope Francis publicly pushed for and for which the Vatican lobbied heavily. A Vatican delegation will attend the conference.

Pope Francis will be the second pope to visit Morocco. St. John Paul II made a historic visit to the country in 1985, becoming the first pope to receive an official welcome in the predominantly Muslim country.

Speaking to thousands of young Muslims on August 19, 1985, St. John Paul said that Christians and Muslims are

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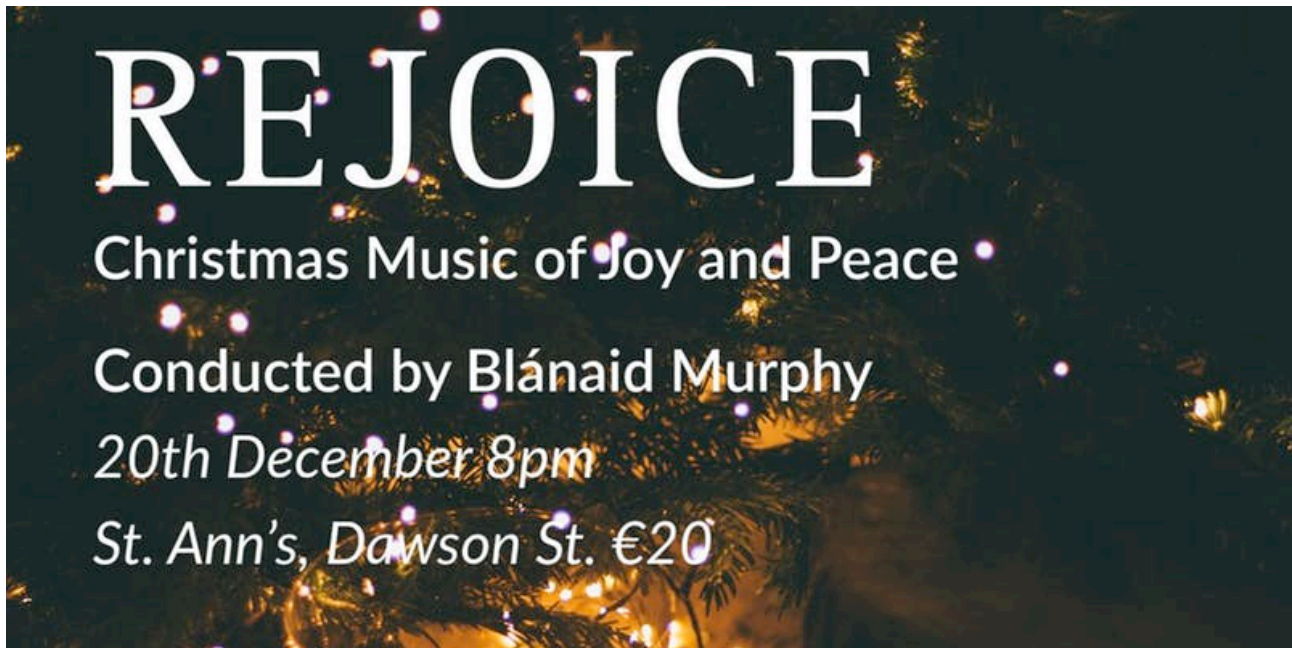
The front of Lambeth Palace, the London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury lit by the graphics of the Church of England's Christmas resource

called "to change our old practices," which have led to misunderstandings and wars, and "recognize with joy the religious values that we have in common. We believe in the same God, the one God, the living God, the God who created the world and brings his creatures to their perfection," St. John Paul said.

Rejoice - A festive concert to round off the year

The Continuum Youth Choir and The Dublin Bach Singers

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A selection of Christmas carols and seasonal favourites.

Arvo Pärt: Magnificat

John Tavener: The Lamb

John Tavener: God is With Us

GF Handel: Christmas Sequence from 'Messiah'

Soprano: Sharon Lyons

Organ: David Grealy

Conductor: Blanaid Murphy

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/rejoice-tickets-52500536518>

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