



## **SVP warn of growing pressure on middle class to pay bills**



**Gerry Garvey, regional co-ordinator, St. Vincent de Paul. He has warned of growing pressure on middle income families to pay their bills.**

The so-called 'squeezed middle' are increasingly turning to the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul (SVP) to pay their bills, the regional co-ordinator of the charity has said.

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Middle class working parents are reluctantly relying on SVP to pay for heating bills and extra expenses such as Christmas gifts for children.

Regional co-ordinator Gerry Garvey said: “There are an awful amount of families that are struggling, managing to get by but when it comes to unexpected or large expenses, they just don’t have it.

“They are the ones that are reluctant to come to a charity because they feel if I am not actually hungry and on the breadline, I shouldn’t really be going to a charity.”

Mr Garvey said calls in Cork to SVP are up 15% and this increase is expected to hold over the coming weeks, before soaring in January.

“There is always a little panic coming into Christmas,” Mr Garvey said.

“Toys for kids takes priority. Food might be tight or utility bills might get put aside.

“We get some additional calls for assistance, but after Christmas, there is an absolute clammer when the bills come in.”

Mr Garvey said people put aside bills and expenses during December in an attempt to survive the expense of Christmas, but then suddenly realise in January that they have bills to pay and not a hope of paying them.

The SVP coordinator said this was leading to increases in the number of people turning to money lenders, which he said was frightening.

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“We are strongly advocating to people, whatever you do, don’t go to money lenders. If you are in trouble come to us or to the Credit Union because the extortionate rates they are being charged by these money lenders is shocking.”

In terms of the organisation, Mr Garvey said the organisation had launched their annual appeal looking to put money in their kitty to help those who need it most.

The organisation is holding their annual church collection on 9 December and for the sixth year in a row, they are auctioning off a car, donated by CAB motors. Report courtesy of - Roisin Burke and the Evening Echo



## **Dublin MU prayer vigil for end to all forms of violence against women and girls**

Members and friends of Mothers’ Union Dublin & Glendalough will gather this Saturday, November 24, to call for an end to all forms of violence against women and girls. The diocesan Mothers’ Union is holding a prayer vigil in Taney Parish Church at 11.30 am as part of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. All are welcome to join.

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The main speaker at the vigil will be Detective Sergeant Laura Sweeney of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau and the service will be led by the Revd Cathy Hallissey.

Gender based violence is any form of violence or abuse that is directed at someone because of their gender. Gender based violence is most often directed at women and girls, although men and boys can also be affected. One in three woman across the world will be affected by domestic violence at

some point in their lives. It can be carried out by partners, family members, members of the community, strangers, armed groups, the state and others.

Violence can take many forms including: domestic violence and abuse, 'honour based' violence,

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**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**  
**Dublin & Glendalough Prayer Vigil**

One in three women across the world will be  
affected by domestic violence at some point  
in their life

Join us in  
**Taney Parish Church  
Dundrum**  
**Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
11.30am – 12.30pm lead by Rev. Cathy Hallissey

Speaker: Detective Sergeant Laura Sweeney  
Domestic Abuse Intervention & Policy and others

**to call for an end to all forms of violence  
against women and girls.**

For more information, please see: [www.dublin.mothersunion.ie](http://www.dublin.mothersunion.ie)  
Visit Facebook [Mothers' Union Dublin & Glendalough](https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnionDublinGlendalough)  
[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org) or [www.mothersunion.ie](http://www.mothersunion.ie)



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female genital mutilation, forced marriage, sexual violence, financial control, emotional and mental abuse, staling and harassment and coercive and controlling behaviour.

16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence runs from the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25) to Human Rights Day (December 10). It provides an opportunity for a wide range of organisations to raise awareness and call for changes which make women and children safe from abuse.

For more information, see: [www.dublin.mothersunion.ie](http://www.dublin.mothersunion.ie). Visit Facebook Mothers' Union Dublin & Glendalough, [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org) or [www.mothersunion.ie](http://www.mothersunion.ie)

## **Archbishop Eamon Martin launches 2018 online Advent Calendar**

Archbishop Eamon Martin has launched the 2018 online Advent Calendar, which will go live on [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie) on the first Sunday of Advent, 2 December next.

The 2018 Advent calendar will provide a special focus on family as part of ongoing reflections following the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families 2018. There will be family prayers and suggestions for acts of kindness or charity that all of us are encouraged to undertake during the month of December. The Advent Calendar will also share tips on how families can care for our common home by having a more sustainable Christmas.

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Now in its fifth year, the online Advent Calendar will offer resources for the parish, school and the home which are available behind a virtual door



each day during the season of Advent. Behind each door there will be content aimed at assisting people to pray and to reflect on how best we can keep Christ at the centre of our Christmas preparations during this special liturgical season.

Commenting on the Advent Calendar Archbishop Eamon said, “The season of Advent marks the beginning of the Catholic year and the time of spiritual preparation for the Lord’s coming at Christmas. It is a time of waiting, conversion and hope. Advent also prepares us for the second coming of Christ at the end of time. As Christians, we must always be prepared for the coming of the Lord – ‘You must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect’ [Mt 24:37-44]. Preparation does not happen at once but over time and so each day of Advent allows us to reflect on the joy of the Gospel. Our online calendar is a helpful resource on this journey.”

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“During Advent 2018 we can reflect on the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland last August when he invited us to welcome Christ in the bits and pieces, the ordinary moments of every day live. I particularly welcome the inclusion of some of the many inspirational messages that Pope Francis gave to us during his time here as part of this year’s Advent Calendar.”

Archbishop Eamon concluded, “I invite everyone during this Season of Advent to enjoy our online calendar, which will highlight the themes of love in the family as well as mercy and peace and which will hopefully help families to prepare for Christmas.”

A popular feature of the Advent Calendar is the audio thought for the day. Contributors this year will include bishops, priests, religious, laity, staff of the councils and agencies of the Irish Bishops’ Conference, as well as primary, secondary and university students.

The 2018 Advent Calendar will also include:

- Mass Readings and Saint of the Day;
- Family prayers;
- Advent videos: blessing of the crib in the home, blessing of the advent wreath in the home;
- The Words of Pope Francis from the World Meeting of Families 2018;
- Acts of kindness in the family, school and parish
- Suggestions to make Christmas more sustainable so as to care for our common home;
- Advent music;
- Seasonal prayers;
- Multimedia thought for the day;



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- Resources for Advent including books and music;
- Advent events in dioceses and parishes;
- Information on Trócaire's Global Gifts for 2018 as well special appeals to help families in need.

You can also follow updates on a special Advent Facebook page [Advent 2018] and on Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #LiveAdvent. For more see [www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar).

## **Clogher voices in harmony for diocesan Big Sing**



**The combined choirs taking part in the Clogher Diocese Big Sing**



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## **Part of the large congregation in St Macartin's Cathedral Enniskillen for the Big Sing**

Choirs, soloists and a congregation drawn from across Clogher Diocese were in fine voice on Sunday evening, 18th November as they took part in the Clogher Diocesan Big Sing.

Around 600 people gathered in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, to enjoy soloists and musicians and to join in with choirs to sing many of their favourite hymns. The quality of the singing and music brought many favourable comments from those attending.

Readers of the Clogher Diocesan Magazine had submitted requests of their favourite hymns and these were introduced

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by people from parishes in the Diocese. Choirs represented singers from Enniskillen Cathedral, Ardess, Dromore, Killadeas, Tubrid and Clabby and featured a grouped choir from Co. Monaghan.

The Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall introduced the evening and the organist was Mr. Glenn Moore.

Among the popular hymns sung were: "Be thou my vision," "O Lord my God!" "Blessed Assurance," "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah," "Amazing Grace," "Nearer, my God, to thee," "In Christ Alone my hope is found," "Great is thy faithfulness," "The Day thou gavest, Lord, is ended," "To God be the glory!" and many more.

These were introduced by people from parishes across the Diocese including Elizabeth Armstrong (Kilskeery), Jennifer Leathem (Clontibret), Rosemary Barton MLA (Colaghty, Lack), Walter Pringle (Killeevan), Ethne McCord (Errigal Truagh), Irene Boyd (Drumkeeran), Arlene Foster (Aghalurcher, Colebrooke), Revd Andrew Quill (Dromore), Stuart Brooker (Devenish), Revd Neal Phair (Ballybay) and Revd Lorraine Capper (Donagh).

Soloists and musicians included: Jayne Malcolmson (Conductor), Glenn Moore (organ), Canon Ian Berry and Revd Andrew Quill (guitar), Ann Bloomfield and Gerard Toal (Piano), Warren Kerr and Gavin Rogers (Cornet), Rodney White (Drums and Percussion), Ethne McCord (Conductor), Roy Crowe, Michelle Elliott and Lynda Lindsay (soloists).

The Diocesan Big Sing was organised by the Clogher Diocesan Music Bursary Committee and supported by the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund.

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## **Liverpool Cathedral expands Christmas offerings to cater for increasing numbers of visitors**



### **Liverpool Cathedral is anticipating a large turnout at its Christmas events**

Liverpool Cathedral is laying on more services and activities this Christmas to meet an increase in demand.

The cathedral is just one of many enjoying a swell in the number of people attending over the Christmas season.

It is one of the busiest seasons of the year for the cathedral, which welcomed more than 4,000 people through its doors on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in 2017 - a ten per cent increase on the previous year.

It will be running two 'Carols for Christmas Eve' services after being filled to capacity last year.

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The Very Reverend Dr Sue Jones, Dean of Liverpool said: 'Last Christmas Eve it was standing room only as our afternoon carol service was so popular. People were joking about having no room at the inn, liking it to the Christmas story.

'We are the spiritual heartbeat for so many and Christmas is a natural opportunity for people to reconnect and rediscover the Christmas story.'

The cathedral will also be putting on a performance of the nativity, 'Hurry to Bethlehem', featuring 200 children from the Merseyside area.

Recent figures from the Church of England show a significant **increase** in the number of people attending cathedral services, particularly over Christmas.

Liverpool Cathedral has welcomed nearly 400,000 visitors since May 2018, with over 60,000 people coming to see Luke Jerram's artwork installation, Museum of the Moon, in one week in May.

In total, Church of England cathedrals welcomed 135,000 people to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in 2017 - up three per cent on 2016 figures.

## **News briefs**

### **Swift Festival**

What did ales taste like in Swift's era? Join historian Gerry Cooley and sample some tasters at JW Sweetman as part of this year's festival. Tickets available at;



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<https://stpatrickscathedral.digitickets.co.uk/event-tickets/17666?branches.branchID=1352...>

## **Joy To The World – Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin**

The Park Singers' 'Joy To The World – A Collection of Carols' Concert on 8th December will be the first of the cathedral's Christmas Concerts

### **Moderator tweets**

I enjoyed my visit to Second Ards. It was a privilege to make a presentation to Thomas Ritchie acknowledging his years as an elder and Clerk of Session. One of so many quiet, faithful, dependable heroes in our denomination.

### **Two new videos on organ registration**

Church Music Dublin has released a further two new videos on organ registration. These are part of the second series – now using a larger three–manual organ. Simon Harden demonstrates options for *The Prince of Denmark's March* by Jeremiah Clarke in Series 2, Part 3. In Series 2, Part 4, he revisits *Andante Tranquillo* op. 65 no. 3 by Mendelssohn. Simon discusses options for registering these pieces when at a larger instrument.

