

November 28, 2018

CNI
CHURCH
NEWS
IRELAND

Bringing the light of Christ to Dublin's city centre – Walk of Light 2018



The Walk of Light on South Anne Street, Dublin, leaving St Ann's Church

November 28, 2018

Over 250 people took part in Dublin Council of Churches' Walk of Light in the city centre Sunday November 25. The 14th annual inter-church journey travelled from St Ann's, Dawson Street, to St Teresa's, Clarendon Street, and finished at Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church.

The ecumenical pilgrimage takes place each year on the Feast of Christ the King and as the dark evenings symbolise the dark times of homelessness, the displacement of millions of people across the globe and the threat of climate change, participants aim to bring the light of Christ onto the streets of Dublin.

This year's theme was 'Encounter, Engage, Empower'. The first of these, 'encounter', was the focus in St Ann's Church where participants considered the impact of the Samaritan woman's encounter with Christ at the well. In St Teresa's the congregation was urged to engage with those in need in Dublin's city centre. In Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church the journey concluded with a reflection on God's call, asking for his guidance and empowerment to face the challenges ahead and to bring the light of Christ into the lives of all we encounter.

This year's charity was the Peter McVerry Trust and Fr McVerry addressed the congregation in St Teresa's Church. He said society labels the groups it wishes to destroy and suggested that that Samaritan woman in today's Ireland, the people who had forfeited the right to respect were homeless people, Travellers, drug users, and ex-prisoners.

"What is the hardest part of being homeless?" he asked. "Is it having nowhere to sleep? No. Is it being board all day with

November 28, 2018

nowhere to go? No. It's knowing that no one cares. Your very homelessness keeps telling you that you have been rejected. If you disappeared off the face of the earth no one would notice and if they did, they wouldn't care. You have lost everything."

Fr McVerry said that when we judge someone, exclude someone, look down on someone, we imply that we are a better person than they are. Yet, he pointed out, there is nothing we have that is not a gift. "It is only by listening to homeless people that I know how blessed I have been. Each homeless person has their own story and each story recounts the gifts they have been given. Because their gifts are different than mine doesn't give me the right to exclude them," he said. Eleven local churches participate in the Walk of Light which follows a different route each year. They are Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church, the Church of Our Lady of Refuge, the Korean Methodist Church, Holy Trinity Rathmines, Methodist Centenary Church, Newman University Church, St Bartholomew's Church, St Finian's Lutheran Church, St Gabriel's Parish of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, St Mary's Church, and St Teresa's Carmelite Church.

Rap icon Coolio's visit to Lurgan church centre branded 'Fake News' by Shankill Parish group

An event in Lurgan, where 90s rap legend Coolio is claimed to perform, has been branded a scam by a Christian group which runs the venue.

November 28, 2018

Coolio

Social media was alive and fans thrilled that the American rapper and actor was to perform at the Jethro Centre on Friday night.



An 'event' had been created on line promoting Coolio Live at the Jethro Centre with Full Band.

It stated: "One of the 90's biggest selling artists Coolio won multiple awards including Grammys and MTV. He has performed and collaborated with some of the words biggest rappers including Biggie, 2 Pac, Dre and Snoop Dog.

"Grab your tickets now before this event sells out."

However the Jethro Centre, which is managed by Shankill Parish Caring Association (SPCA), was unaware of this.

In a statement on Facebook they said: "How do these rumours start?

"We've been fielding calls today about a supposed concert on Friday night featuring 90's rapper Coolio. Based on a News Letter report.

November 28, 2018

Support for Activism Against Gender Based Violence from Mothers' Union in Dublin & Glendalough

Members of Mothers' Union in Dublin & Glendalough raised their voices on Saturday November 24 to speak up for those experiencing domestic abuse. The organisation held a prayer vigil in Christ Church, Taney, as part of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.

During the service, which was led by Taney Curate, the Revd Cathy Hallissey, they heard from women who work with people affected by domestic abuse and prayed for an end to all forms of gender based violence and abuse.

Detective Laura Sweeney of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau said people often don't act when they suspect domestic abuse because they fear they might have to do something.

"One in three women in Ireland and one in five men experience domestic abuse. They are our sisters, our friends, people we go walking with in the evening. The abuse is not the victim's fault. We can be supportive and share their secret with them until the day they are ready to act. Because if a victim is contemplating leaving, they are at a greater risk of dying," she explained.

Detective Sweeney praised Mothers' Union for highlighting the issue. "You might not be told of the abuse but the reality is that a huge volume of people on a daily basis are

November 28, 2018



Niamh White of Aoibhneas Women's Refuge, Aoife Palmer of Saoirse Women's Refuge, Karen Nelson (Diocesan President, Mothers' Union), Detective Laura Sweeney of the GNPSB and Avril Gillatt of Mothers' Union at the MU 16 Days' Prayer Vigil

experiencing domestic abuse. Just be aware and open to people who might want to confide in you,” she concluded.

Aoife Palmer, outreach worker for Saoirse Women’s Refuge in Tallaght, spoke about their service which provides short-term crisis accommodation for women and children who experience domestic abuse. The refuge also offers community-based services for women and is soon to open two ‘post-crisis safe houses’ which will give women and their children a bit more time to source a home for themselves. During 2017, the Saoirse Women’s Refuge had 254 residents – 102 women and 152 children. They got over

November 28, 2018

2,000 calls to their helpline and there were 190 families that they could not accommodate.

Ms Palmer highlighted two events taking place during the 16 Days of Activism. Saoirse is holding a 16-hour sleep out at IT Tallaght on Wednesday November 28. They are participating in an event in Tallaght Stadium in conjunction with Tallaght Women Together Network on December 6.

Niamh White is part of the management team at Aoibhneas Women's Refuge in Coolock. She said the service they provide is multi-faceted as every victim's experience of abuse is different. They prioritise their 24-hour helpline as this service is often a woman's first port of call and it allows staff to offer advice and support while enabling the women to be heard and listened to.

The purpose-built refuge has the ethos 'one team, one family' and Ms White explained that they support the families as they begin a new journey. Key workers work on the practicalities but staff also help women to rebuild their self esteem. "Our focus is on getting the word out that domestic abuse is not acceptable and you don't have to live like this. There is another way," she stated. Once families leave the refuge, they can connect with the outreach services which include peer support groups and Aoibhneas's eight-week 'Freedom Programme'. Aoibhneas is holding a Christmas appeal and are seeking donations of vouchers which the women in the refuge can spend on Christmas presents and items for their families.

16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence runs from the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against
churchnewsireland@gmail.org

November 28, 2018

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.

Russian sisters stall at Galway market



The sisters of St Elisabeth Convent (Minsk, Belarus) invite you to visit the Convent's charitable stalls at Galway's Christmas market taking place until December 22rd, 2018, In Eyre Square.

St Elisabeth Convent has participated in Christmas markets for many years. The sisters always bring joy to their visitors with unique handcrafted items made with love and prayer in the Convent's numerous workshops. You can also enjoy warm and meaningful conversations with the sisters.

November 28, 2018

You will have the opportunity to purchase a variety of colourful gifts at the markets: handmade ceramic products and other items made of wood, glass, and metal, as well as music and video discs, will make wonderful gifts for you and your loved ones.

By buying the products made in the workshops of St Elisabeth Convent, you support the Convent's ministry with children and adults with special needs. The lay 'Sisters of Mercy' and the nuns of St Elisabeth Convent look after several orphanages, hospitals, residential care facilities, and a TB clinic, as well as two rehabilitation centres for the homeless. There is also a Visiting Nurse Service operated by the Convent. It aims to provide support for poor and elderly people. The Sisters had a stall at the Belfast Continental market.

Friends of Israel banned from speaking at Northern Ireland council event

The head of a pro-Israeli group says the decision to ban the Northern Ireland Friends of Israel from speaking at an event in Londonderry is "hugely disappointing", the Belfast Telegraph reports

Steven Jaffe, co-chair of the organisation that aims to build bridges between Northern Ireland and Israel, was speaking after an invitation to address Derry City and Strabane District Council was voted down.

At a meeting in the city's Guildhall, independent republican councillor Paul Gallagher proposed sending 'a message of



Disappointed: Steve Jaffe

solidarity' out to coincide with the United Nations' Day of Solidarity with the people of Palestine, on November 29.

The proposal passed despite opposition from all unionists present.

Ulster Unionist deputy mayor Derek Hussey proposed that the council invite the NI Friends of Israel to address members, on the basis that "there are two sides to every story".

However Sinn Fein councillor Christopher Jackson said his party could not support the proposal, given that the "Israeli onslaught on the Palestinian people continues to this day".

While unionist councillors supported the proposal, it failed after remaining SDLP, Sinn Fein and Independents opposed it.

November 28, 2018

Mr Jaffe said: "This is not just excluding us as an organisation but a wider section of the community that regards itself as being Friends of Israel.

"The council is effectively saying that people who hold that view are not welcome, which is of great concern. We addressed Fermanagh and Omagh District Council this month where there were members of all political parties present. Everyone listened respectfully and, while we didn't all agree, it was an evening of dialogue. Sadly, it doesn't appear that will be possible at Derry City and Strabane Council level. It's more than a little ironic that this happened in Derry given its history of civil rights and inclusivity. I wonder if John Hume was a well man what he'd say about it."

The Bible Comes to Life in Ballyholme

This week, Ballyholme Parish is hosting a unique interactive exhibition exploring the life and culture of the world's bestselling book.

‘The Bible Comes to Life’ boasts a rich collection of historic artefacts including Torah (Bible) scrolls, Middle Eastern clothes, models of the Tabernacle and Temple and items of Biblical religious and daily life. People will be able see, touch and smell the world of the Bible.

The exhibition is a pre–Christmas treat for all ages and offers an opportunity to learn about Jewish life, culture and religion from the Hebrew Scriptures. It also places the roots of Christianity in their original and spiritual context.

November 28, 2018

Rector of Ballyholme, Canon Simon Doogan, said:

“If you think of the Jesus of Easter as a solitary, lonely, rejected, abandoned figure, the Jesus of Christmas has a family and has a community. That family and that community were first century near eastern Jews, so faith and festivals, home and Temple were the centre of gravity. The exhibition takes us back to that time and reminds us of those fixed points in Jesus’ life.

“It also takes us back to before the Reformation, before the division in East and West to the prehistory that gave birth to Christianity. The Hebrew Scriptures were the Bible Jesus read so understanding the world of the Old Testament – Jesus’ world – is vital to our understanding of the New Testament.”

Members of the public can enjoy the experience free of charge until Friday 30 November from 6.30 pm–9.30 pm and on Saturday 1 December from 1.30 pm–5.00 pm.

Anglican leaders from the Americas gather in Toronto for regional Primates’ Meeting

The leaders of eight Anglican Provinces whose churches cover the territory from Cape Horn to the Arctic are gathering in Toronto for a regional Primates’ Meeting. Seven Primates and a Bishop representing the Church in the Province of the West Indies, where there is a Primatial vacancy, are meeting in to discuss the Lambeth Conference 2020 and other issues including the Anglican Communion’s

November 28, 2018



Instruments of Communion and relationships within the Communion.

The meeting has brought together Primate Bishop Naudal Alves Gomes from Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil; Archbishop Julio Murray Thompson from the Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America; Primate Bishop Francisco Moreno of the Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico; Presiding Bishop Greg Venables of the Anglican Church of South America; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry of the US-based Episcopal Church; Archbishop Tito Zavala, of the Iglesia Anglicana de Chile; and the meeting's host, Archbishop Fred Hiltz of the Anglican Church of Canada. The Bishop of the Windward Islands, Leopold Friday, represented the Church in the Province of the West Indies.

They have been joined by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, the Secretary General of the Anglican

November 28, 2018

Communion, Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon, and the Chief Executive of the Lambeth Conference, Phil George.

“I am very happy to welcome all of the primates of our region of the Communion”, Archbishop Fred Hiltz said. “This is a meeting that is conversational. We are not making decisions or pronouncements. We are being invited by the Archbishop of Canterbury to come together in our respective regions to have conversations. These conversations will then feed into the Lambeth design group for Lambeth 2020.

“I take the Canadian contribution to the conversation of Lambeth 2020 very seriously. It is for all the bishops – not for just the Primates – to shape the agenda.

“At the last meeting of the Canadian House of Bishops, we had good conversations about the Instruments of Communion and how they bolster the life and witness of the Communion as a whole. We also reflected on the theme of Lambeth 2020: God’s Church for God’s World.”

He continued: “Our own bishops in Canada are looking forward to learning about ministry in other local contexts; building relationships; understanding our witness of the local and the whole. Also, many Canadian bishops are interested in matters of concern for the household of faith including the nature of a post-colonial church; honouring indigenous self-determination; learning from other indaba conversations across the Communion; reconciliation; sustainable development goals; and combating gender-based violence among other matters.”

The meeting got underway this morning (Tuesday) and will continue until Thursday.

November 28, 2018

News links

What makes a Church of Ireland school?

<https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/what-makes-a-church-of-ireland-school-1.3711159>

Church of England lead bishop on education on way forward for education in rural communities

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/church-of-england-calls-for-government-strategy-to-safeguard-future-of-rural-schools-1-9465135>

Survey: Dramatic shift in Northern Ireland public opinion on same sex marriage and abortion

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/survey-dramatic-shift-in-northern-ireland-public-opinion-on-same-sex-marriage-and-abortion-37572772.html>

Key Northern Ireland peace process player speaks of concern over loyalist reaction to Brexit

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/key-northern-ireland-peace-process-player-speaks-of-concern-over-loyalist-reaction-to-brexit-37571199.html>

Brexit strains add to Dublin housing crisis

November 28, 2018

[https://www.thedetail.tv/articles/dublin?
utm_source=mailinglist&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=288-brexit-strains-add-to-dublin-housing-crisis](https://www.thedetail.tv/articles/dublin?utm_source=mailinglist&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=288-brexit-strains-add-to-dublin-housing-crisis)

Countryfile Magazine feature on Britain's most beautiful rural churches

<https://www.countryfile.com/go-outdoors/days-out/britains-most-beautiful-churches/>

Facebook - Twitter

Click on logo at CNI Home page

www.churchnewsireland.org

+ Please share CNI with your friends

www.churchnewsireland.org

