

Irish Jesuit honoured by Zambia



Fr. Michael Kelly being conferred with The Order of Distinguished Service by Zambian President, Edgar Lungu

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A Co. Offaly-born Jesuit has been honoured by the government of Zambia for his work in developing strategies for HIV prevention.

President Edgar Lungu conferred the Order of Distinguished Service on 89-year-old Fr Michael Kelly SJ last week in the Zambian capital, Lusaka.

Fr Kelly has worked for decades to educate people about the HIV virus and to promote safe behaviour among young people and those most at risk.

Born in Tullamore, Co. Offaly in 1929, Fr Michael was one of seven children, three of whom became Jesuits.

He studied at University College Dublin and was awarded a first class honours BA in maths and mathematical physics in 1952.

He then went on to obtain a licentiate in philosophy in 1955 and was ordained a Jesuit in 1961.

On completion of his studies, he moved to Zambia. Initially, the Irish missionary taught at secondary school level. During the period just before and after Zambian Independence, he served as Head of Canisius High School.

In April 1968, he became a Zambian citizen.

Fr Kelly was awarded a PhD in child and educational psychology in 1974 and subsequently became a senior lecturer and Dean of the School of Education in the University of Zambia (UNZA) in 1975.

He served as pro-vice chancellor and deputy vice chancellor. In 1987, he became Professor of Education at the university.



Fr. Michael Kelly with Zambia's first President, Kenneth Kaunda

Throughout his period at the University of Zambia, Fr Kelly was closely involved with the development of education in Zambia, participating in the educational reform movement in the 1970s, and the production of the 1991 policy report 'Focus on Learning', and the development, in 1996, of the current education policy, 'Educating Our Future'.

He has campaigned for better educational opportunities for girls.

From the late 1980s, as Zambia was dealing with the devastating impact of the AIDS pandemic, Fr Michael redirected his attention to addressing HIV/AIDS.

Zambia is one of the worst affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Seeing so many men, women and children being lost to the disease moved him to take action.

While much of the attention in the HIV/AIDS arena has been on the area of treatment and care, Fr Kelly was a consistent advocate, at national and international levels, for the importance of prevention and the role of education in that context.

He consistently pointed out that education is the most effective 'social vaccine' against HIV and AIDS – that education in its own right helps prevent infection.

He argued that the longer children could be kept in school, the higher the chances of delaying sexual activity and the better equipped young people are to understand and protect themselves.

He also stressed that getting more children into school, especially girls, and ensuring they get a quality education was critical if the numbers of people becoming infected by HIV was to be reduced.

Through his research and writing about AIDS, his work has became known to many throughout Africa and internationally.

His list of publications includes fifteen books, numerous articles in professional journals, and several teaching modules relating to educational management and planning in a world with HIV and AIDS.

One of his many books on this subject has been described as a seminal and definitive text on our tasks and challenges in fighting AIDS.

He has contributed to the work of the World Bank, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, Oxfam and a range of other AIDS related organisations.

He has been a member of the Council of Consulting Fellows for the International Institute for Development Planning (Paris) and also a member of the Council of the University of Botswana (Gaborone).

In addition, he is a board member for RAISA (Regional AIDS Initiative for Southern Africa, based in Pretoria), Restless Development (formerly Students Partnership Worldwide), Zambia Open Community Schools, Zambia Senior Citizens Association, and the Zambia Truck Drivers' Association (as a member of the Advisory Board).

Fr Kelly has worked very closely with the Irish government in informing their policy on HIV and AIDS.

In recognition of his work in this area, the Irish government established an annual lecture series on HIV and AIDS in his name – the Professor Michael Kelly Lecture on HIV and AIDS – and a Father Michael Kelly Bursary to enable Zambian students undertake higher studies relating to education and HIV/AIDS.

Archbishop Michael Jackson encourages Diocese of Jerusalem to Walk in the Spirit

Archbishop Michael Jackson is currently attending the synod of the Diocese of Jerusalem at the invitation of Archbishop Suheil Dawani. The United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough and the Diocese of Jerusalem have a



partnership link and Archbishop Jackson delivered a Bible study at their synod in Amman, Jordan, on Tuesday.

The Archbishop chose as his text Galatians 5.22: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace. If we live by the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit." He said these words are used as the introduction to The Peace in the Church of Ireland at Pentecost and at the opening of a Synod.

"They are the words through which we offer to one another life in the Spirit of God on earth as it is in heaven. A Synod is not a School Debating Society; neither again is it a Take Away where you order up work for other people to do; nor again is it an AGM of disgruntled shareholders. It is the place where you share your discipleship with the discipleship of others; where together you pledge to make new neighbours and to seek out forgotten neighbours. It is

above all the place where you listen and look for the descending of the Holy Spirit," he said.

The Archbishop added: "Our mission is to fill our churches and our communities with *love, joy, peace*. We are called to do so within the world created by God. We are called to do so through the gift of grace entrusted to us as the coinage of humanity and goodness. We are to spend and to be spent; we are to love and to be loved; we are to live and walk in the Spirit with an attitude of justice and compassion, adventure and attentiveness, grace and mercy. These days together give us the chance to kindle once more the flame given to us for nurture and for sharing".

200th Anniversary of birth of Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander celebration

A large turnout of parishioners and friends from neighbouring churches attended an evening of music, presentation and song as Christ Church Strabane celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the birth of the distinguished poet and hymn-writer, Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, who had very close links with the parish.

Mrs Alexander is renowned worldwide for having written hymns such as 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', 'Once in Royal David's City' and 'There is a Green Hill Far Away'. However, she and her husband, Rev William Alexander, got married in the old Strabane parish church at Patrick Street, in 1850, and their marriage certificate and the communion chalice used in the wedding service remain in the parish to this day.

Rev William Alexander was appointed Rector of Christ Church in 1860 and later became Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

At the anniversary celebration, the Dean of Derry, Very Rev Raymond Stewart, led the congregation in prayer, while the Narrator for the evening, Mr Jason Foy, regaled the congregation with the story of a truly remarkable lady and her family, and their strong links with the parish of Camus-JuxtaMourne.



The music was led by Mr Roy Adams MBE and the choir, and the congregation joined in a selection of carefully chosen hymns for the evening. The children began the evening's praise by singing the opening verse of 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', and later sang 'Do No Sinful Action' accompanied by Mrs Julie O'Loughlin on the piano. Mrs Anne Smith enthralled the congregation by reciting three of Mrs Alexander's poems.

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November 8, 2018 Two US states vote to deny public abortion funding



Pro-life advocates at the March for Life in Washington in 2016

Two US states have amended their constitutions to reject public funding of abortion.

Voters in West Virginia and Alabama approved pro-life amendments, while a similar measure in Oregon was defeated.

West Virginian voters passed Amendment 1, also known as the "No Right to Abortion Amendment", by 52 to 48 per cent.

In Alabama, Amendment 2 secured a clear victory with 59 per cent of the vote. That amendment inserts into the state constitution language "to declare and otherwise affirm that it is the public policy of this state to recognize and support the sanctity of unborn life and the rights of unborn children, most importantly the right to life in all manners and measures appropriate and lawful; and to provide that the constitution of this state does not protect the right to abortion or require the funding of abortion."

Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life America, said: "Given the chance to influence abortion policy directly, so far tonight voters have embraced life as West Virginia and Alabama already have weighed in with legal protections."

"In a world after Roe, the voters will finally get to decide what abortion policy they support, and in this election, we saw people getting ready for the day in which Roe becomes a footnote in history," she said.

Archbishop, theologian, reformer: 9 quotes from William Temple

William Temple is widely regarded as one of the greatest Archbishops of Canterbury. A theologian and church statesman, he argued passionately that protecting the Jews who were being slaughtered during the Second World War should be an Allied priority, and helped found the Council of Christians and Jews. His 1942 book Christianity and Social Order was a landmark in Christian thinking about a just society and influenced the Beveridge Report that laid the foundations for the post-war Welfare State. He died in office

in 1944 and was the first Archbishop of Canterbury to be cremated.

Here are nine quotes from William Temple.

1. When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't they don't.

2. To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the



truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.

3. To choose a career on selfish grounds is probably the greatest single sin that any young person can commit, for it is the deliberate withdrawal from allegiance to God of the greatest part of time and strength.

4. The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.

5. The most influential of all educational factors is the conversation in a child's home.

6. Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself than of other people, nor does it mean having a low opinion of your own gifts. It means freedom from thinking about yourself one way or the other at all.

7. Religion is what you do with your solitude.

8. There is no structural organisation of society which can bring about the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth since all systems can be perverted by the selfishness of man.

9. Christianity founds hospitals and atheists are cured in them, never knowing they owe their cure to Christ.

News briefs

Armagh Robinson Library Heritage Award

The team at the library are absolutely delighted to have been awarded 'Best Maintenance of a Public Building' in the 2018 Heritage Angel Awards. Organised by the Ulster Arcitectural Society the awards recognise people who protect the heritage, buildings, landscapes and craftskills of NI.

North Fermanagh Remembers

Friday 9th - Sunday 11th November 2018 – WW1 Remembrance Weekend North Fermanagh Remembers will hold a weekend of events to remember the end of the Great War (1914-1918) in Ardess Parish Church and Parish Centre. Friday 10.00am 2.30pm exhibition open to schools;

Friday 7.00pm Official opening address by LT. Commander Peter Archdale, Royal Navy (Retired);Friday 7.30pm talk by well-known journalist Maurice Neill on WW1 soldier Willie McBride; Ardess Accordion Band will be in attendance. Saturday Exhibition opens at 10.00am, Saturday 3.00pm keynote speaker Major Alan McFarland, Royal Tank Regiment (Retired) president of the Somme heritage centre on the Irish Divisions; Sunday Exhibition opens 3.00pm;Sunday 7.00pm Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving to include Ballinamallard Silver Band and the Silver Tones.

Lisburn Garden of Remembrance

A Garden of Remembrance at Christ Church Parish, Lisburn, commemorating the 123 parishioners who died in World War 1. The garden is located close to the church tower.

Teabag target met in Ballycastle

The youth fellowship of the Parish of Ramoan decided that as part of the church's Harvest Services they would ask parishioners to donate teabags for the local foodbank in Ballycastle. The young people set themselves an impressive target of 10,000 teabags! In return they served refreshments after the service.

Harvest Gala Ball for Fields of Life

Friday 9th November – Harvest Gala Ball organised by Holy Trinity Church, Dromore in the Valley Hotel, Fivemiletown, on Friday 9th November 2018 at 7.30pm in aid of Fields of Life. A Charity Auction of donated items will be held during the event. Music by *Atmosphere*. Dress Code: Smart Dress.

Admission (by ticket only) £37.50. For more information or to purchase a ticket, please contact Gordon Deazley (Team Leader) on 028 8289 8005 or email gdeazley@btinternet.com.



Magheralin Parish Christians Against Poverty support recognised

"On behalf of Lurgan CAP centre Thank you for your incredible generosity through both your giving in church and your online giving. This page will be open a little bit longer if anyone wishes to support this incredible ministry. Thanks, Simon" justgiving.com

Heart of patron saint of Dublin goes on display

The heart of St Laurence O'Toole goes on permanent public display in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin from 14 November 2018 with free entry to the cathedral from 9:30

am – 2:30 pm, welcoming the people of Dublin to view the heart of the city's patron on his feast day.

Church Army chief - no easy solution to knife crime

There is no easy solution to knife crime but my <u>Church</u> <u>Army</u> colleague Nick helps young people escape gangs in London and he says we need to invest in youthwork on our estates, giving young people positive experiences of family and community - Mark Russell

Mothers Union Away from it all

Each year, Mothers' Union helps an average of 2,500 families build relationships with loved ones through short holidays and experiences. If you or someone you know would benefit from this project apply today. <u>https://www.mothersunion.org/projects/away-it-all ...</u>

US election outcomes

The Colorado cake baker who refused to bake a cake for a gay couple now has a gay governor. Two states have voted to deny abortion funds. (See news report above).

