

**Archbishop Dolan to
close 30% of RC
parishes in New York**



Remembrance Garden, East Belfast - Photo by Roger Bradley

Remembrance Weekend at St Mark's Dundela

The Parish of St Mark's, Dundela will be marking the 100th Anniversary of the First World War with a series of events over Remembrance Weekend in 2014.

The Revd Adrian Dorrian, Rector of St Mark's, said, "Remembrance is always significant in St Mark's because of our valued link with the folks at Clonaver Barracks. This year, we will mark that link and we will also draw on the rich



tapestry of literature and history that surrounds the Great War for this series of events.

“I am especially delighted that the Letters from the Trenches discovered in the *Kilmore Collection* will be central to our weekend programme. [As well as the short film showcasing these letters](#), we are very pleased that we will have them on display in the Church (Sat–Mon) and the Church Hall (Tues) during the weekend’s events. I hope as many people as possible will join us for some or all of this

programme.”

Programme ([Download a flyer here](#))

On **Saturday 8 November**, St Mark’s Men’s Group will host brunch in the Rectory at 11.15 am, followed by a specially arranged tour of the Somme Heritage Centre in Newtownards at 1.00 pm. This event is open to all, not just men, and is the only event over the course over the weekend to incur a charge – £8 will cover the cost of brunch and the Heritage Centre Tour. Those who would like to join us for the tour (for £5) are also welcome.

On **Sunday 9, Remembrance Sunday**, there will be two services of Remembrance at which St Mark’s Choir directed by Peter Hunter will join the clergy in leading worship. Join St Mark’s Parishioners at 10.30 am for Morning Prayer with an Act of Remembrance that will include the reading of the Parish Roll of Honour. The Rector, Red Adrian Dorrian, will preach at this service. A specially prepared service at 12 noon will welcome members of 40 Signals Squadron and various Cadet Companies Companies from Clonaver Barracks. The preacher at this service will be the Curate, Red Lynne Gibson, who is also Chaplain to the Sea Cadets Company.

On **Monday 10**, St Mark’s will play host to the first screening of a short film, ‘The Boys from East Belfast’ which charts the discovery of a series of letters to the Rector of Dundela during the First World War written by soldiers in the trenches. The letters will be on display at this event and throughout the weekend.

At 10.55 am on **11 November**, a short prayer service lasting 15 minutes will take place in the Side Chapel of St Mark’s, including two minutes’ silence at 11.00 am. The same day, at 7.30 pm in the Heyn Hall, St Mark’s Players will host a Parish Evening entitled ‘1914 Voices’. Using archive material, dramatic

presentations and music, those present will be transported to the world of 1914 and have the chance to witness something of its reaction to the outbreak of war.

Little Day Out for young Presbyterians to celebrate Christmas

Little Day Out Christmas is an opportunity for pre-school kids to come and explore the Christmas story through story, music and craft.



The event will take place on Tuesday, 25th

November starting at 10am at Ballyclare Presbyterian Church, 2 Foundry Lane, BT39 9BQ. Lunch will be provided for the children and refreshments will be available for adults.

As Ruth Bromley, Children’s Development Officer with the Presbyterian’s Board of Youth and Children’s Ministry, explains, “The event is for children, who are not yet in school, and their parents to come together and explore the Christmas story and the birth of Jesus. We want all the children to have fun and so a big focus of the event will be music which will be led by Amy Matson of AM Music.

“We have been working closely with Michelle Purdy, the Deaconess in Ballyclare, to get everything ready and we will be focusing on the stars that lead to where Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The kids will get to make their own Christmas decorations in the shape of stars to help them remember the story when they go home.

“The philosophy behind Little Day Out is to pilot different types of events for this age group that are linked to a particular Presbytery and then invite all the local crèche groups and toddlers groups to join us. So far, we have taken kids

to Streamvale Farm and hosted a teddy bear's picnic at Kilfennan Presbyterian Church.

“The resources used for these events, including stories, publicity and budget details that are needed, are available to [download from the website](#) giving churches and/or Presbyteries the tools they need to recreate their own events in their area.”

The cost to attend is £3 per child and £1 per adult ticket and numbers will be limited so booking early is essential. Tickets can be purchased online at www.presbyterianireland.org/littledayoutchristmas and more information is available through the Youth and Children's office on +44 (0)28 9032 2284.

Assembly in Kilmore diocese provides basis for new pastoral plan

Listening Survey finds that it should be a priority pastoral concern for the Church to be a place of healing and calls for a major investment in the development of a comprehensive youth ministry

The Kilmore Diocesan Assembly, the third Assembly of the diocese since 2000, took place in Saint Patrick's College, Cavan last weekend.

The theme of the Assembly was taken from three words Pope Francis used during his first homily as Pope: “Walking Together, Building the Kingdom, Professing our Faith”, and marked the culmination of two years of planning and consultation. Over 300 delegates attended on each of the two days including representatives from each of the 35 parishes in the diocese, priests and permanent deacons, religious, pastoral assistants, and representatives of apostolic and Church-based organisations and societies operating in Kilmore.

Pope Francis sent a message to those attending the Assembly in which he prayed that, “by walking together in this Assembly, the participants will encounter the truth and source of hope for their lives, Jesus Christ, and, filled with joy and gratitude, will share this gift by collaborating in building the kingdom, illuminating even the fringes of our world by their profession of faith and leading to ‘fruitfulness in the work of evangelisation’. (Evangelii gaudium, 11)”.

Over the course of the two days, delegates discussed a number of issues including the findings of a diocesan-wide ‘Listening Survey’; current patterns

of sacramental practice; effective ways of ministering to young people; and proposals for future directions for the diocese in the light of the decreasing and aging number of clergy. There were a number of small group and open forum discussions during the course of the Assembly during which the delegates reflected on how to address key pastoral challenges facing the Church in Kilmore. A team of fifty facilitators collated the responses from the small group discussions.

In response to the Listening Survey, delegates said that they believed in and were committed to a future for our Church – a Church that can communicate the good news and is open to whatever internal change is needed in order to do that; a Church that honours the place of the priest but is not clerical; a Church where there is genuine shared responsibility with trained laity; a Church that is closer to the lives of the people (including those who do not regularly attend Mass), more understanding of the challenges and complexities of their lives and better able to speak to and reflect on those issues in our sacraments, liturgies and pastoral outreaches. Delegates expressed the wish that priests would have more time for pastoral issues and should delegate administration responsibilities. They felt strongly about a place for women in the Church where they could play key roles at parish and diocesan level. Those attending resonated strongly with concerns for mental health. The belief was expressed that the Church can be a place of healing and that this should be a priority pastoral concern in terms of networking with relevant agencies, how we celebrate our liturgies and sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

More at -

<http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2014/10/31/successful-assembly-in-kilmore-diocese-provides-basis-for-new-pastoral-plan/>

Quakers in Britain launch 'inspiring' £4.5M worship and conference centre

Quakers in Britain will launch one of London's newest auditoriums on 10 November, following a £4.5 million renovation.

The Light, to be launched on Monday 10 November, is the main hall in Friends House, a well-known venue for historic peace rallies where Mahatma Gandhi and the Dalai Lama have been significant visitors. Now Quakers in Britain are launching the refurbished space as a major London conference centre.

Traditionally the venue for Quakers' Yearly Meeting which determines the work and witness of the movement, the 1,000 seat auditorium, opposite

Euston Station, reflects Quakers' ethos of fairness and sustainability. The new space is simple and fitting for worship, as well as being a destination venue for large conferences.

Quakers in Britain say the refurbishment makes Friends House a more versatile and sustainable building, accessible to all, a haven in the city and expressive of radical ideas.

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain said: "Quakers know the value of meeting together on equal terms, being able to listen and hear one another and see each other's faces. In *The Light* we have a space which allows us and others to do just that. A space which speaks about Quakers to the world and yet is contemporary and exciting."

Key heritage features have been retained while a stunning roof light in a vaulted roof have been installed. The 3.3 metre square roof light allows light in from above, not seen since the original clerestory windows of the award-winning 1926 Hubert Lidbetter design were hidden by the 1950s ceiling.

The Light will be fully accessible, including a flexi step to the stage and a new lift.

Recycle and re-use have been the watch words. Old wooden panelling has been crafted into benches for Friends House and for the new café at Quaker Swarthmoor Hall in Cumbria, while toilets have been recycled to a development project in Sierra Leone.

Already bookings are brisk – the Criminal Law Friendly Society, Grace Baptist Mission and Occupy London and students of Birkbeck College, University of London, are among the first customers.

The project architects are John McAslan + Partners. The building company Westco Partnership are working on both *The Light* and redeveloping Friends House garden, installing an electricity sub-station, an external lift and gently sloping paths to improve access for all.

A twentieth century listed building, designed by architect Hubert Lidbetter, Friends House includes offices for Quakers' centrally employed staff, an historic library, award winning restaurant and the Quaker Centre with its worship space, bookshop and café.

* For *The Light* see www.thelightateuston.org.uk/

* Quakers are known formally as the Religious Society of Friends. Around 23,000 people attend 478 Quaker meetings in Britain. Their commitment to equality, justice, peace, simplicity and truth challenges them to seek positive social and legislative change.

* Friends House, a listed building, was designed by Hubert Lidbetter and won the 1927 RIBA bronze medal for best building erected in London.

Archbishop Dolan to close 30% of RC parishes in New York



Apparently, church restructuring is far from an Episcopal-only issue in the USA. Archbishop Timothy Dolan

announced that he would either close or merge thirty percent of the parishes in his archdiocese of New York by August 1, 2015.

This would represent one of the largest reorganizations in one of the largest archdioceses in the nation, and affects 112 of 368 parishes.

Associated Press report in Crux - Cardinal Timothy Dolan on Sunday announced plans for the merger of almost a third of the parishes in the Archdiocese of New York, one of the largest reorganizations in the archdiocese.

An advisory committee of clergy and other diocesan officials conducted a multiple-year review before coming up with the plan to merge 112 of the 368 parishes. The reorganization affects churches throughout the archdiocese, from Staten Island to Sullivan County, and takes effect Aug. 1, 2015.

“This time of transition in the history of the archdiocese will undoubtedly be difficult for people who live in parishes that will merge,” Dolan said. “There will

be many who are hurt and upset as they experience what will be a change in their spiritual lives, and I will be one of them.”

It was unclear what would be done with the unused churches and buildings.

After the merger, 24 new parishes will celebrate Mass and sacraments at two churches, including churches from 48 of the merged parishes. Thirty-one new parishes will serve congregations from 64 of the merged parishes and will celebrate Mass and sacraments regularly at only one church.

Young radio reporters in Liberia to spread the word about Ebola



ACNS -Anglican Communion News Service - Young radio reporters in Liberia will soon be broadcasting programs to teach people there about how to prevent the spread of Ebola.

The [Children’s Radio Foundation](#), led in the U.K. by Anglican priest the Rev. Charlotte Bannister-Parker, has worked hard to build up this network of youth reporters across 29 of the country’s radio stations.

The charity exists to provide young people in countries across Africa with the skills to make radio and connect them with local radio stations where their packages can be aired.

“We already have an army of young people who are active youth reporters,” said Bannister-Parker, “So what we’re doing now is putting together an Ebola Health Information Pack (EHIP) to send out to their 29 stations containing accurate, effective information about Ebola.”

Over the years CRF quickly learned from young people in the countries where they worked that there can be a lack of trust among children and

young adults about public health messages that come from government officials.

“Government messages can often fall on deaf ears because they’re not created by young people for young people,” she said. “What we’ve been doing is putting together an information pack that is also appropriate for young people to engage with and use.”

Bannister-Parker added that CRF’s radio packages will also compliment the work and appeals of those charities that would normally respond to such a multi-national crisis.

“Thanks to the other appeals people are getting buckets and soap and protective clothing, but if they don’t know how best to use them there’s almost no point in getting them. So our radio messages come in at a crucial point in that educational process.”

She added that radio is also a safe, contact-free form of distributing information and is locally contextual: CRF-trained young reporters exist in five other countries South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania, the DR Congo and Kenya and the organization works in 25 languages.

“Because there’s a chance Ebola may spread to other countries across Africa we’re going to use these EHIPs in all our other radio stations, with all our other children in the other partner countries.”

Bannister-Parker, who used to work in television broadcasting, explained that the charity has also been invited to connect with the Disasters Emergency Committee and other major humanitarian charities as well as to consider bringing their radio education model to Sierra Leone — another country affected by the killer disease.

She added that she considers the charity’s presence in Liberia was “God-given. It’s a very unusual country for us to be in in the first place—I believe Unicef invited us in because of the high infant mortality and low education levels. It’s the epicenter of the disease and we’ve been given an incredible opportunity to help.”

The Children’s Radio Foundation <http://www.childrensradiofoundation.org/> has launched a £20,000 appeal at <https://www.justgiving.com/crffightsebola/> to help create an Ebola-ready continent.