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Saints risk all for love of Jesus, Pope says at Canonisation Mass



The banners of new saints Oscar Romero and Paul VI hang from the facade of St Peter's Basilica

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Carrying Pope Paul VI's pastoral staff and wearing the blood-stained belt of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, Pope Francis formally recognised them, and five others, as saints of the Catholic Church.

Thousands of pilgrims from the new saints' home countries – Italy, El Salvador, Spain and Germany – were joined by tens of thousands of others in St Peter's Square to celebrate the universal recognition of the holiness of men and women they already knew were saints.

Carolina Escamilla, who traveled from San Salvador for canonization, said she was “super happy” to be in Rome. “I don't think there are words to describe all that we feel after such a long-awaited and long-desired moment like the ‘official’ canonisation, because Archbishop Romero was already a saint when he was alive.”

Each of the new saints lived lives marked by pain and criticism – including from within the Church – but all of them dedicated themselves with passionate love to following Jesus and caring for the weak and the poor, Pope Francis said in his homily.

The new saints are: Paul VI, who led the last sessions of the Second Vatican Council and its initial implementation; Romero, who defended the poor, called for justice and was assassinated in 1980; Vincenzo Romano, an Italian priest who died in 1831; Nazaria Ignacia March Mesa, a Spanish nun who ministered in Mexico and Bolivia and died in 1943; Catherine Kasper, the 19th-century German founder of a religious order; Francesco Spinelli, a 19th-century priest

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and founder of a religious order; and Nunzio Sulprizio, a layman who died in Naples in 1836 at the age of 19.

“All these saints, in different contexts,” put the Gospel “into practice in their lives, without lukewarmness, without calculation, with the passion to risk everything and to leave it all behind,” Pope Francis said in his homily.

The Pope, who has spoken often about being personally inspired by both St Paul VI and St Oscar Romero, prayed that every Christian would follow the new saints’ examples by shunning an attachment to money, wealth and power, and instead following Jesus and sharing his love with others.

And he prayed the new saints would inspire the whole Church to set aside “structures that are no longer adequate for proclaiming the Gospel, those weights that slow down our mission, the strings that tie us to the world.”

Among those in St Peter’s Square for the Mass was Rossi Bonilla, a Salvadoran now living in Barcelona. “I’m really emotional, also because I did my Communion with Mgr Romero when I was eight years old,” she told Catholic News Service.

“He was so important for the neediest; he was really with the people and kept strong when the repression started,” Bonilla said. “The struggle continues for the people, and so here we are!”

Claudia Lombardi, 24, came to the canonisation from Brescia – St Paul VI’s hometown. Her local saint, she said,

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“brought great fresh air” to the Church with the Second Vatican Council and “has something to say to us today,” particularly with his 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae* on human life and married love, especially its teaching about “the conception of life, the protection of life always”.

In his homily, Pope Francis said that “Jesus is radical.”

“He gives all and he asks all; he gives a love that is total and asks for an undivided heart. Even today he gives himself to us as the living bread; can we give him crumbs in exchange?”

Jesus, he said, “is not content with a ‘percentage of love.’ We cannot love him 20 or 50 or 60 per cent. It is either all or nothing” because “our heart is like a magnet – it lets itself be attracted by love, but it can cling to one master only and it must choose: either it will love God or it will love the world’s treasure; either it will live for love or it will live for itself.”

“A leap forward in love,” he said, is what would enable individual Christians and the whole church to escape “complacency and self-indulgence”.

Without passionate love, he said, “we find joy in some fleeting pleasure, we close ourselves off in useless gossip, we settle into the monotony of a Christian life without momentum where a little narcissism covers over the sadness of remaining unfulfilled.”

The day’s Gospel reading recounted the story of the rich young man who said he followed all the commandments

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and precepts of Jewish law, but he asks Jesus what more he must do to have eternal life.

“Jesus’s answer catches him off guard,” the pope said.

“The Lord looks upon him and loves him. Jesus changes the perspective from commandments observed in order to obtain a reward, to a free and total love.”

In effect, he said, Jesus is telling the young man that not doing evil is not enough, nor is it enough to give a little charity or say a few prayers.

Following Jesus means giving him absolute first place in one’s life. “He asks you to leave behind what weighs down your heart, to empty yourself of goods in order to make room for him, the only good.”

“Do we content ourselves with a few commandments or do we follow Jesus as lovers, really prepared to leave behind something for him?” the Pope asked people gathered in St Peter’s Square, including the 267 members of the synod of bishops and the 34 young people who are observers at the gathering.

“A heart unburdened by possessions, that freely loves the Lord, always spreads joy, that joy for which there is so much need today,”

Pope Francis said. “Today Jesus invites us to return to the source of joy, which is the encounter with him, the courageous choice to risk everything to follow him, the satisfaction of leaving something behind in order to embrace his way.”

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Film launch at Dublin synod highlighting A Place to Call Home campaign

A short film highlighting aims and impacts of A Place to Call Home – the Dublin & Glendalough Refugee Accommodation Project – has been launched.

The steering committee of A Place to Call Home worked with film maker Greg Fromholz to produce the film about the diocesan project which supports the Irish Refugee Council's innovative programme offering 'next step' accommodation and assistance for people exiting Direct Provision.

The film can be used in parishes, schools and organisations throughout the United Dioceses to promote the project as part of the ongoing three year fundraising programme. The steering committee has also produced resources which can be used in Sunday Clubs and All Age Services.

Speaking at Dublin & Glendalough Synods during the week, steering committee chairperson, Geoffrey Perrin, said that the project had reached its half way point, both in time and funds raised. At the 18 month mark the amount raised is €150,000.

“Quite often we hear cries like ‘Where is God in all of this?’ and ‘What can the church really do?’ Let me give you some answers. We are all too well aware of the housing crisis in the country and especially in Dublin. But just think how much more difficult this crisis is if you arrive here as an immigrant or an asylum seeker,” he said.

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Geoffrey Perrin giving an update on A Place to Call Home – the Dublin & Glendalough diocesan refugee accommodation project

“As Christians we have a faith to proclaim. We have a faith to put into action. I realise that there are many ways we can express this faith. We have a crisis in the city and I’m really pleased that our dioceses have chosen to help in this way. So far we have raised €150,000 but we want to continue to drive on this project,” he added.

All clergy at Synod were given an envelope with suggested material for Sunday Club and all age worship and ideas for fundraising initiatives. Also included was information from the Irish Refugee Council detailing representatives who are

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willing to speak in churches and posters highlighting the project. The Sunday Club resources and the video can be downloaded from the website along with details of how to donate <https://dublin.anglican.org/.../diocesan-refugee-housing-appel...>

Geoffrey thanked Canon Horace McKinley who came up with the idea for the project and concluded: “We have a massive challenge in this city and we need to meet that challenge”.

Busy weekend at the C of I Theological Institute

It was a busy weekend at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. Part-time MTh students and deacon-interns were in attendance, along with two cohorts of those in Diocesan Reader training and the first group of those in preparation for Ordained Local Ministry.

The MTh students were continuing their module on Liturgy with Dr Bridget Nichols, whilst the interns were studying the pastoral care of those suffering from anxiety and depression, facilitated by the Revd Andrew Rawding.

Dr Tim Hull, formerly of St John's, Nottingham, introduced the 'Christian Doctrine in Focus' module to the 2018 Reader group, whilst those from 2017 received teaching from, amongst others, Dr Miriam Moffitt in church history.

The OLM students joined with Methodist counterparts for an exploration of theological reflection, jointly led by Dr

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Patrick McGlinchey and the Revd John Alderdice of Edgehill College. This followed on from two successful regional study days with Dr Maurice Elliott looking at 'Worship and Preaching'.

Beyond such training days the balance of OLM teaching is delivered through online lectures and four regional tutorial hubs in Belfast, Cashel, Claremorris and Longford.

Government support for Donegal Parish Church repair

The Irish government has awarded €20,000 in urgent funding to repair the spire of Donegal Parish Church.

The decision was announced by the Minister for the Irish language, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Deputy Joe McHugh, when he visited the Rector of Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey, Archdeacon David Huss, in Donegal Town on Friday morning.

The minister called at the church to see the ongoing repair work to the spire, which he described as "a landmark feature of Donegal Town". Deputy McHugh also called at the parishes' outreach centre, The Mustard Seed, in New Row, where he shared a coffee with parish volunteers.

Archdeacon Huss said he was grateful to the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht for supporting the restoration work through its Structures at Risk fund.

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“Our parishioners have a deep affection for Donegal Parish Church and they will be delighted at today’s news,” Archdeacon Huss said.

“I think some of them felt at a low ebb after our Christmas Day lightning strike, in 2016, and then the subsequent revelation of extensive damage to our spire and tower.

But there’s been a lot of lobbying and a lot of praying since then. Thankfully, today it seems they’ve paid off.”



Kirk goes on the road to tackle local democracy issues this autumn

As part of the Scottish Government’s ongoing [Democracy Matters](#) consultation, the Church of Scotland is hosting community consultation events designed to empower local congregations to make a positive difference within their communities.

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The programme, which was [previously announced in August when the Church sought churches to host the events](#), is now underway. Four successful roadshows have so far been held in Kirkwall, Aberdeen, Paisley and the south side of Glasgow, with more events still to go.



Rev Peter Johnston, the minister at Ferryhill Parish Church in Aberdeen, said:

“The passion in the discussion at the Democracy Matters event I hosted in Aberdeen was very evident both in the strength of feeling that there is currently something not working in local democracy and in the desire to see democracy function better for all.

“The event was a great opportunity to learn from one another about different aspects of local democracy as everyone came with different experiences and knowledge.

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It was an opportunity for honest discussion about difficult themes and those present felt it had been worthwhile.”

All across Scotland, decisions about the physical environment, health, education and transport are being taken by a wide range of public sector organisations. The Scottish Government consultation reflects a growing realisation that many decisions could be best taken by the people who will be directly affected.

The series of community consultation events ask people about their experiences of local decision making processes and how this could be done better. Questions for discussion will include whether communities would like more control over some decisions; whether there are existing ways of making local decisions that could make this happen, or whether new forms of decision making are needed. The results of the consultation events will be compiled and contributed to the Scottish Government as they consider the future of local decision making.

Events are also planned for South Uist in the Western Isles, Strontian in the West Highlands, Balloch in West Dunbartonshire, Elgin and Keith in the North East, and in Dundee, Inverness, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

News briefs

+++Vatican Synod on Youth

Archbishop Eamon Martin says the Synod on Youth has just completed its second stage in which there was focus

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on trying to help young people find the Lord, “but also really weigh up what it is that God might be calling them to do in their lives”, thus the need for accompaniment. The discussion process is broken up into three steps, which are based around the Reality of the situation for young people, the Interpretation of that reality and then the Choosing of steps to take.

+++Moravian insight

The Rev Dr Bob Cotter will deliver a lecture entitled ‘John Cennick 300: A Talk on the Theology of John Cennick,’ at the Braid, Ballymena, on November 3 at 7pm. The talk explores the role John Cennick played in the 18th-century evangelical revival and is the last in a series of events organised by Mid-Antrim Museum, in partnership with Gracehill Moravian Church, to mark the 300th Anniversary of John Cennick’s birth. Admission is free.

+++Cork women in RMS Leinster remembered

At the invitation of the Courtmacsherry and District History Society, the Bishop of Cork unveiled a plaque in the old Lislee Church in memory of two women who worshipped there – Henrietta and Ida Howell – who died on 10th October 1918 in the sinking of the RMS Leinster by a German U-Boat. As civilians they are not commemorated anywhere. Henrietta’s body was recovered and was buried in Mount Jerome, Dublin. Ida’s body was never recovered.

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Pray for **Alan and Tracey Johnston, Presbyterian CI global mission workers in Italy** who have recently completed their four-year assignment in Porto Mantovano, as they undertake deputation this autumn and seek a calling into some form of ministry. <http://bit.ly/2cgVbSa>

+++Youghall installation

Yesterday in the Collegiate Church of St Mary, the Virgin, Youghal, the Bishop of Cork licenced the Revd Andrew Orr to serve in Youghal union of parishes and as Chaplain in Midleton College. The preacher at the service was the former Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Walton Empey.

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+++Armagh organ series begins

In St Patrick's cathedral, Armagh, yesterday (Sunday) afternoon, Dr Stephen Timpany, Director of Music and Master of the Choristers, gave the first in the new organ recital series featuring works by J.S. Bach, César Franck and Denis Bédard. Dr Timpany has invited organists to take part in the new recital series which will run until May 2019. The next recital will be given by the Revd Dr Peter Thompson on Sunday 25 November 2018.

+++Dublin courtesy call

On Wednesday in Dublin the Lord Mayor Councillor Nial Ring will pay a courtesy call to the Archbishop, Most Rev Michael Jackson. This past week end Dr Jackson co-chaired the Porvoo Consultation.

+++Cashel Ferns & Ossory Synod

The Diocesan Synod will be held in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy, County Wexford this year on October 17th.

+++Presbyterian Historical Society lecture

'The Mother Kirk: Irish Presbyterians and the 1843 Disruption of the Church of Scotland. An examination of Irish Presbyterian reactions to the Scottish Disruption, placed in the broader context of the Free Church of Scotland's attempt to position itself as "the true National Church" after 1843, by [Mr Ryan Mallon](#), Queen's University churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Belfast on Thursday 18 October 2018 at 8.00 p.m. in [Strand Presbyterian Church](#), [161 Connsbrook Avenue](#), Belfast BT4 1ND

<http://www.presbyterianhistoryireland.com/2018/10/phsi-lecture/>

+++Churches grants programme

The [National Churches Trust](#) is revising its grant programmes for 2019-23 and is encouraging applications from Northern Ireland. Christ Church, Derriaghy, pictured, was a successful applicant earlier this year, receiving funding to preserve its spire. Read more at

<https://bit.ly/2EgN7im>

+++Ballinderry Crosslinks Mission Partners

Gerald and Louise Mwangi spoke in the parish church yesterday (Sunday) morning - about their work. The evening service was the monthly informal praise service, held in the church hall. There was a retiring collection after both services, in support of Tearfund's relief work in Indonesia following the tsunami.

+++Little Day Out

Is a PCI event offering parent and toddler groups an opportunity to explore a biblical theme. Pray that as all involved explore the story of the lost sheep through activities & story, God's love will make a fresh impression.

<http://bit.ly/2cgVbSa>

+++Poppies for dogs

Pets at Home has teamed up with the Royal British Legion to design an exclusive range of Poppy accessories for their

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dogs to wear with pride. The range includes a Poppy collar charm, a Poppy bandana and also a bowtie sporting the iconic red flower motif.

<https://www.express.co.uk/.../remembrance-day-2018-dogs-poppi...>

+++Building Blocks 2018

So much to hear, see and learn from this years amazing line up of speakers to encourage and excite you about your children and young peoples engagement with the Bible.

[https://www.facebook.com/downanddromoreyouthandchildren/posts/2508444015848809 ...](https://www.facebook.com/downanddromoreyouthandchildren/posts/2508444015848809...)

News links

Sadness as falling congregation forces landmark Belfast church to close its doors after 133 years

Belfast Telegraph

The final chapter in the history of one of Belfast's landmark **churches** will be ... (1986) - served as moderators of the Presbyterian **Church in Ireland**.

BBC's school choir contest set to return

Belfast Telegraph

During early 2019, the production team will be out across Northern **Ireland** with a series of heats which will be broadcast on radio, culminating in a ...

Two cakes, two courts, two countries: Same result for Christian bakers

Religion News Service

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Despite Northern **Ireland's** reputation for **religious** conservatism — it is the only part of the United Kingdom where same-sex marriage is still not ...

Bishop says anti-abortion doctors will be ‘railroaded out of practice’

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/health/bishop-says-anti-abortion-doctors-will-be-railroaded-out-of-practice-1.3657140>

Almost 60,000 pupils in shared education in Northern Ireland

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-45826351>

Churches take on challenge to make Manchester Britain's first 'cycling city'

Premier

The **Church of England** in Greater Manchester is encouraging its churches to welcome cycling by ...

Church supports gambling TV ads ban during live sports events in the UK

European Gaming Industry News (press release) (blog)

A spokesman for the **Church of England** said that the bookmakers had “singularly failed to exercise any kind of restraint” over their advertising during ...

CMS and Diocese of London open new school for lay pioneer ministry

Anglicannews

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In 2017 the diocese's electoral roll figures – the closest to a membership list in the **Church of England** – showed a 13 per cent increase in church ...

Flying success for Bats in Churches project

Gov.UK

A groundbreaking project led by Natural **England** to help **churches** that host large bat roosts ... Many **church** communities live harmoniously with bat roosts. ... with the **news** that HLF will continue to fund the Bats in **Churches** project.

Church of England academy faces termination over 'unacceptably low' standards

Schools Week

A **Church of England** academy in Lincolnshire faces having its funding withdrawn and being rebrokered to a new sponsor after Ofsted warned of ...

