



Two ecumenical firsts mark feast of Dublin's St Laurence O'Toole

A week of events marking the 800th anniversary of the unification of the dioceses, based around the Feast of St Laurence O'Toole, got underway in Christ Church Cathedral with an ecumenical Festal Choral Evensong. At the invitation of Church of Ireland Archbishop Michael Jackson, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin preached for the first

time at Evensong at Christchurch Cathedral on the eve of the feast day of the Church reformer and peacemaker.

In his sermon, Archbishop Martin said: “Laurence travelled across a war-torn Europe to attend the Third Lateran Council in Rome in 1179. He tried to negotiate a peace between the different Irish political groupings. Henry II refused to meet him as he was angry with Laurence for having damaged his reputation with the Pope and because of Laurence’s popularity with the Irish people. Prevented from returning to Ireland, Laurence went to the Augustinian Monastery of St Victor at Eu in Normandy and died there on 14 November 1180. Only 45 years after his death he was canonised by Pope Honorius III, at the instigation of the people of Eu, who were so struck by his piety in the final few days of his life.”

Archbishop Martin said that “Laurence carried out his reform of the Church in Dublin addressing up front the corrupt and violent culture and behaviour of the Dublin of his time. Today in Dublin there is new violence and disregard for human dignity. Human life has become cheap for criminal gangs who wish to impose their power on others. We know that violence if not the

answer. It never has been. Violence and gestures of disrespect for individuals are not the signs of democracy; they are not the signs of respect for human dignity.”

He said that the saint “had a great influence on the political situation of his time. He was not however a political figure. He was a Churchman and a man of God. It was his integrity as a man of God rather than any political agenda which permitted him to have influence in society. He was a true spiritual leader who tried to witness to the care of Christ for his people and for the society in which they lived.”

He continued: “In an increasingly secularised Ireland, how can faith contribute today to the process of grounding the values which should inspire our modern society? I have often mentioned the question which Pope Benedict posed to me ten years ago on my first official visit as Archbishop to him: ‘Where are the points of contact today between the Church in Ireland and those places where the future of Irish culture is being formed?’ I know that Archbishop Michael and I share a common concern around this challenge and share a realization that this is a

challenge for the Churches not just individually but ecumenically.”

In a further symbol of Christian unity the service was sung by the combined choirs of Christ Church Cathedral and the Girls' Choir of St Mary's Pro Cathedral. Together they performed the world premier of a wonderful new anthem written by English composer, David Bednall, which was specially commissioned for the occasion.

The choirs and the congregation were also the first people to publicly sing two newly commissioned hymns, celebrating St Laurence O'Toole. The hymn texts, which were translated and versified by Canon Dr John Bartlett for this service, come from the 13th century Vita of St Laurence O'Toole.

The service was celebrated by the cathedral's Dean, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne, who read a message from Archbishop Michael Jackson. He is in Amman, Jordan, preaching at the Ordination of Priests as part of Dublin & Glendalough's link with the Diocese Jerusalem. He will also attend the Diocesan Synod of Jerusalem where he will address members on Dublin & Glendalough's Come&C programme.

In his message Archbishop Jackson said three things summed up the celebration of St Laurence–tide – shared history, shared present and shared future. He said: “I delight that Archbishop Diarmuid Martin is in Christ Church Cathedral this evening. He, his clergy and people are our partners who share this journey of faith, hope and love with us and we with them”.

Ardoyne priest’s face-to-face with his critic

Ardoyne priest Father Gary Donegan has shaken hands with Dee Fennell in the wake of their confrontation during a parade protest.

He came face-to-face with the high profile GARC member as part of the Stephen Nolan TV series , Story of a Lifetime.

The pair were brought together at the same spot where weeks earlier Fennell and protesters railed against Fr Donegan for backing a deal to allow Orangemen to march up the Crumlin Road .

Fr Donegan told the Sunday Life: "He had a different recollection of it than I had - he said it wasn't an animated conversation.



"He was obviously trying to defend what he did and he felt that because I'm a public figure, a priest, it doesn't put me above somebody having a difference of opinion.

"I said that everybody has a right to an opinion but it was what I was subjected to on the day that I found offensive, not the fact that someone's opinion was different to mine.

"He said he felt he wasn't being aggressive in his tone but it's there and it has been documented.

"Nolan actually asked him if he had watched the footage back and he said he had seen it a few times.

"He said that he couldn't stand over how other people spoke to me but he felt that he did it in a measured way.

"It wasn't exactly that most measure thing, he was leading a baying crowd." At the end of it Nolan asked if Fr Donegan would be prepared to shake Fennell's hand, which the pair did before parting.

"I have shaken hands with much scarier people than Dee Fennell," said Fr Donegan. He added: "It's over now, I'm glad it's happened rather than it become something bigger than what people deemed it to be, otherwise these things fester."

A BBC spokesperson said: "Stephen Nolan is currently making a film with Father Gary Donegan. We are currently still filming this project and will announce further details in the near future."

C of I Child Protection Officer for the Republic of Ireland

Mr Gabriel Chrystal has been appointed Child Protection Officer for the Republic of Ireland.

Originally from Sligo, Gabriel has been in police work since 2002 and has been part of the child protection team within both the Metropolitan Police in London and Thames Valley Police. He brings a broad range of experience in the field of family support and child protection, including case management and investigation, and has also specialised in the provision of training programmes.

Together with Margaret Yarr, C of I Child Protection Officer for Northern Ireland, Gabriel's role will be to provide advice and support to the Church in the implementation and development of its child protection policy Safeguarding Trust.

The Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin and Chairman of the Church of Ireland Board of Education (RI), said: 'I am delighted to welcome Gabriel Chrystal to work with the dioceses and parishes in the Republic of Ireland in the area of child protection. The Church's work in the area of child protection is very important to our life as a church community and helps to provide a safe environment in which ministry with children can be creatively and effectively explored. I offer Gabriel my congratulations on his appointment and know that he will be

welcomed by the wider Church as he begins his work with us.'

Remembrance Sunday observed throughout Ireland



At St Patrick's Cathedral - The preacher, the Very Revd Dr. Houston McKelvey; the President's Aide de Camp, Lieutenant Louise Conlon; and the Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, the Very Revd Dr. William Morton.

The annual Remembrance Sunday Service took place in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday afternoon (November 13).

The service was led by Dean William Morton and sung by the Cathedral Choir (Schola and Men's Voices). Among the dignitaries present was the Lord Mayor of Dublin. The President and Taoiseach were represented by their Aides de Camp and Minister Heather Humphries represented the Government.

The standards of the RBL, ONET and OCA were presented and wreaths were laid at the War Memorial in the north transept by Minister Humphries and Major General The O'Morchoe, President of the RBL Republic of Ireland.

The preacher was the Very Revd Houston McKelvey. An excerpt from the sermon is available at <http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2016/11/Clearing-the-Way-for-Reconciliation-and-Remembrance-a-Christian-Vocation-Remembrance-Sunday-in-St-Patricks-Cathedral>

At the invitation of the Cork Branch of the Royal British Legion, the Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, delivered an oration at the Cork War Memorial, South Mall, Cork on Sunday, 13th November. The occasion was Remembrance Sunday in this centenary year of the Battle of the Somme.



Standard Bearers at St Patrick's Cathedral

A very large attendance from around the City and County of Cork gathered. David Daly, President of the Cork Branch of the Royal British Legion presided. The Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Kenneth O'Flynn, the Deputy Mayor of Cork County, Councillor Joe Harris, together with David Stanton, T.D. Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality, and representatives of the Defence Forces, Naval Service and An Garda Síochána were in attendance. Bishop Colton's address address at - <https://churchofirelandcork.com/>

Lassus choir honours war dead in Remembrance Day concert in Dublin

Irish Times

Churches throughout **Ireland** have memorials to young men who died in battle. Yet St Mary's, Haddington Road, which hosted a Dublin **Choral** ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/war-dead-honoured-in-remembrance-day-concert-1.2864353>

Tower of London poppy to be presented to County Cavan church

BBC News

By Julian Fowler BBC **News** NI ... The **Church of Ireland** Rector of Arvagh, Reverend Hazel Hicks, said she is delighted that the poppy will be given to ...

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37947689>

Lest We Forget' theme at commemorations

Belfast Newsletter

Tomorrow morning, **Church of Ireland** Primate Archbishop Richard Clarke and Roman Catholic Primate Archbishop Eamon Martin will jointly lay a ...

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/lest-we-forget-theme-at-commemorations-1-7676395>

Methodist President's visit to Belfast District

From Sunday 13th until Sunday 20th November, the Rev. Bill Mullally, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland is making a pastoral visit to the Belfast District.

His visit began with the Service of Remembrance at Belfast's City Hall on 13th and later that day he was the Preacher at Mountpottinger Methodist Church where he also dedicated refurbishment work done in that Church. The PSNI Ladies choir took part in the Service.

Monday 14th - The President along with the Lay Leader attended an event at Hillsborough Castle

Wednesday 16th - This will begin with a visit to the Lord Mayor of Belfast at City Hall. (This year's Lord Mayor is Cllr. Brian Kingston who is a member of Joanmount Methodist. He will be lunching at Cregagh Methodist's luncheon club and will also meet with the Men's Bowling Fellowship.

Thursday 17th - In the morning the President will be at Knock Methodist and then in the afternoon he will visit the Royal Victoria Hospital where he will be hosted by the Rev. Derek Johnston, Lead Chaplain to the Belfast Trust. While there he will

lunch with the Chaplaincy Team followed by a tour of the hospital. He will then have tea with the Belfast District Methodist Chaplains.

Friday 18th - Today the President will visit both North Belfast Circuit where he will be hosted by the Rev. Philip Agnew here he will visit the Duncairn Community Partnership and later make a short tour of the area visiting inter-face areas. It is hoped to meet with a representative of the political parties.

The Rev. Colin Duncan will be the President's host for his visit to the Greater Shankill Circuit,. This will begin with a lunch at Clonard Monastery followed by a visit to Forth Spring Inter Community Group where he will learn about some of the cross community work. While in the area he will meet with a local MLA. The visit to the Greater Shankill Circuit will conclude with a visit to the Oasis foodbank where he will meet with members of the North and West Foodbanks. The Oasis foodbank is a joint venture by the Circuit, located in Shankill Methodist Church.

Sunday 20th - On the last day of his Visit, the President will attend the Church Anniversary

Service at East Belfast Mission in the morning. In the evening he will be at Belfast South Methodist Church for the District Home Mission Service.

Prior to his visit The President said - "I am looking forward to this visit and learning more about not only the Belfast Methodist District, its people and their missional outreach but to learn more about Belfast. The name of the City is not strange to me for while living in South Africa I often heard it in news reports but always for the wrong things. I know today that not only has its sky-line changed but there is a new sense of hope in the lives of those who live in it. I am hoping to hear and see something of this when I meet with those people on my visit who are trying to meet the needs they find around them."

Justin Welby preaches in Westminster Cathedral for first time

The Archbishop of Canterbury preached for the first time at Westminster Cathedral, the heart of the British Catholic Church, on Sunday.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols welcomed Justin Welby along with Catholic bishops from England and



The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of Westminster gave a joint blessing at the end of the vespers service.

Wales for the closing of the Door of Mercy at the end of the Year of Mercy.

Welby said the year, which began in December 2015, had "caught the imagination, not only in the Catholic Church, but in all churches and far beyond," according to [Independent Catholic News](#).

He added: "Mercy is the gift that goes on giving... that dissolves the hardness of hearts."

The Year of Mercy was announced by Pope Francis in March 2015 and is described as "extraordinary" because it does not fit within the usual 25-year cycle of Jubilee Years in the Catholic Church.

Each Jubilee Year is usually marked with the opening of the Door of Mercy in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. But for this Year of Mercy Pope Francis wanted a door in each diocese so everyone could celebrate the festival.

Welby said the Door of Mercy "calls us back to receive mercy by grace and to be people of mercy". He compared it to the wardrobe door in the Narnia chronicles and said mercy opens people to a different world – the Kingdom of God.

Vincent Nichols, as Archbishop of Westminster, is the head of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and opened the Door of Mercy on 13 December 2015.

News briefs

+++ Down and Dromore Mothers' Union newsletter - The Autumn 2016 edition of the Down and Dromore Mothers' Union newsletter, 'Around and About' is now available for download. Catch up on all that has been happening [Click here to download.](#)

+++ Derry & Raphoe Youth Night - The C of I National Youth Officer Simon Henry was the speaker at Culdaff Parish, Donegal, on Friday night for Derry & Raphoe's Diocesan youth event. Martin Montgomery, Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Youth Officer organised the event.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

BBC - Reports that the people of Croydon fell silent in remembrance of the seven victims of

Wednesday's tram crash. The Bishop of Croydon, Jonathan Clark, read out the names of the victims during the Croydon Minster's annual service of remembrance for the fallen in two world wars and in other conflicts.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-37968995>

Times

Reports that the BBC will increase its coverage of more religions and could broadcast Friday prayers after complaints that it was too Christian. Lord Hall of Birkenhead, Director-General of the Corporation, is inviting religious leaders to join discussions about plans for multi-faith coverage. In the summer Aaqil Ahmed, former head of religion and ethics at the BBC, told a Commons committee that he had prepared a report for Lord Hall to set out the religious mix across TV and radio. "Christianity remains the cornerstone of our output and there are more hours dedicated to it than there are to other faiths," he said.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bbc-revamp-will-counter-christian-bias-qkpd663wk>

Mail

Agency copy reports that more than 500 graves of Cistercian monks and lay brothers have been discovered at one of the largest monastic ruins in

the country. Experts have used ground-penetrating radar to make the find at Fountains Abbey near Ripon in North Yorkshire. The National Trust, which looks after the site, has been working for more than two years on the project with experts from the University of Bradford, Geoscan Research and Mala Geoscience.