



## **Mothers Union to help young people move into starter homes**

The Mothers' Union in the Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough has announced a new project which will provide young adults moving into independent living with basic provisions. Mothers' Union will partner with Focus Ireland for the next three years in their 'Get Started' project.

This new diocesan Mothers' Union project will donate 'Get Started' packs to Focus Ireland's new Greenhill's Court Complex. These will assist young adult residents by providing them with starter pack containing basic food, cleaning products and other essentials when they move to their own independent accommodation.

Simon Monds, South Dublin After Care Services Project Leader from Focus Ireland addressed Mothers' Union members at their Autumn Council in St Brigid's Parish Centre, Stillorgan, yesterday evening ( Thursday November 17).

"Focus Ireland works with people who are homeless or are at risk of losing their homes across Ireland. They offer individuals, and families, advice, support, education and housing to help people to have and keep a home. They believe that everyone has a right to a place they can call home and campaign to address the causes of homelessness," he commented welcoming the new MU project.

MU branches around the dioceses will contribute 'Get Started' packs for the project. The packs will be brought to Spring Council in April 2017 and will be passed on to Focus Ireland immediately afterwards. Information on what items to include

in the 'Get Started' packs will be sent out to branch leaders and will be available through the website [www.dublin.mothersunion.ie](http://www.dublin.mothersunion.ie).

## **Archbishop of Jerusalem to visit Dublin next month**

The Archbishop of Jerusalem, the Most Revd Suheil Dawani, his wife, Shafeeqa and his Chaplain, Canon David Longe, will visit Dublin & Glendalough from December 1 to 7. Their visit is part of the Jerusalem Link partnership between the dioceses and people from all over our dioceses are invited to come and meet our guests. Their programme has been put together by the Diocesan Council for Mission and all are very welcome to attend.

Throughout the visit there will be opportunities to meet the Archbishop and learn about life for Christians in the Middle East. One of the key events will be a fascinating seminar in the Church of St John the Baptist in Clontarf on Monday December 5 at 7.30 pm.

“Christians in the Middle East: their plight, and the challenge for the West” will feature a panel discussion followed by questions and comments



***Archbishop Michael Jackson of Dublin and  
Archbishop Suheil Dawani of Jerusalem***

from the floor. The panel members will be:  
Archbishop Suheil, Fr Canon Kieran O'Mahony  
(Roman Catholic, Ecumenical Canon of St  
Patrick's Cathedral), Georgina Copty (a  
Palestinian Christian living in Belfast) and the  
Revd Dr John Parkin (Methodist, Ecumenical

Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel). The moderators will be Philip McKinley and the Revd Dr William Olhausen.

Another of the highlights of the week will be an ecumenical service in Christ Church Cathedral at 5.00 pm on Saturday December 3. Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland will attend and both he and Archbishop Suheil will give reflections. This service is also supported by Dublin Council of Churches. The service will be followed by walk to Khachkar, a memorial to those who died in the Armenian Genocide which started in 1915, in the cathedral grounds.

Other public events include:

Thursday December 1 at 9.00 am – Opening Eucharist at St Bartholomew’s Church, Clyde Road, Dublin 4.

Friday December 2 4.00pm – Evening Prayer in St Doulagh’s Church, Balgriffin, Malahide.

Sunday December 4 at 11.00 am – Archbishop Dawani and Archbishop Jackson in Nun’s Cross Church, Ashford.

Sunday December 4 at 11.00 am Canon David Longe preaching in Christ Church Cathedral

Sunday December 4 at 3.00 pm Archbishop Dawani and Archbishop Jackson at Kenure, Rush for 150th anniversary celebration

Tuesday December 6 at 10.00 am – Morning Prayer in St Kevin’s Church, Hollywood.

## **Nashville Hall of Fame Songwriter for Belfast Cathedral**

Mary Chapin Carpenter a multi Grammy and CMA Award winner will perform in the unique surroundings of St. Anne's Cathedral on Saturday 28th January in association with Out To Lunch Festival

Five-time Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter and Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee Mary Chapin Carpenter hits the road in 2017, performing songs from her expansive 14-album catalog and new songs from her latest record *The Things That We Are Made Of*, released May 6, 2016.

Produced by 2016 Producer of the Year Grammy-nominee Dave Cobb (Jason Isbell, Chris Stapleton), the album features eleven new songs written by Carpenter, and has received critical acclaim from NPR and Rolling Stone, among others.

The Huffington Post praises, “Beautifully written and lovingly paced, *The Things That We Are Made Of* is an uplifting and very human account of Mary Chapin Carpenter’s self-reflective consciousness.” Continued praise from Jezebel says the album is “...filled with gentle reflections of a life that’s reached yet another turning point—one with both plenty of living left, as well as plenty of living to learn from. Produced by Dave Cobb, its simple, sturdy arrangements allow the wisdom of Carpenter’s lyrics to maintain our focus throughout all 11 of its gorgeous tracks.”

Over the course of her acclaimed career, Carpenter has recorded 14 albums and sold over 14 million records. With hits like “Passionate Kisses” and “He Thinks He’ll Keep Her,” she has won five Grammy Awards (with 15 nominations), two CMA awards, two Academy of Country Music awards for her vocals and is a member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G\\_qS2VAG1mw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_qS2VAG1mw)

Tickets on sale from  
[www.realmusicclub.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.realmusicclub.ticketsource.co.uk)

## **Damaged plaster at Clonmel Friary reveals 600 years of history**

A historic church in Clonmel in County Tipperary where a wall was extensively damaged last summer has provided a unique insight into the town's history.

Last summer, plaster fell off the wall of Clonmel Friary. Subsequent tests revealed that the structure underneath was the original wall of the tower, which was constructed between 1350 and 1400.

Following professional advice, it has since been decided that this section will not be re-plastered, and the original wall will be left visible in the Friary, which is believed to be the oldest building in Clonmel.

Speaking this week to the Nationalist newspaper in Clonmel, Friary Guardian, Fr Larry Mulligan





O.F.M., said: “We were fortunate that nobody was near that area in the church when the plaster fell. Residual moisture in the brickwork loosened the bonding between the brick and the plaster. Following tests it was decided that all of the plaster would have to be removed. Some pointing of the wall may need to be carried out, although this won’t interfere with the structure, which will be left in its original form.”

Fr Mulligan revealed that a fundraising drive is now taking place in Clonmel to fund works necessary to preserve the tower in its original form.

He added that “The Franciscans have had a presence in Clonmel for the last eight centuries and this unique feature of the town’s history will be preserved for the benefit of present and future generations of Clonmelians. It will be an addition to the architectural heritage of the town.”

The original friary church in Abbey Street in Clonmel was built in 1269. This building had a turbulent history. The Franciscan community was dispersed, moving to other locations in the town after the monastery was seized during the Suppression on 8 March 1540. The move followed King Henry VIII’s plan announced in 1536 for the dissolution of the Irish monasteries to raise money for the state. The Franciscans returned to Abbey Street in the 1800s.

## **Statement from St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin, on Patrick O’Brien**

*The following statement was issued yesterday by St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin:*

St Patrick’s Cathedral deeply regrets the fact that children, the most vulnerable members of its community, were sexually abused by Patrick

O'Brien. Patrick O'Brien was a member of the congregation and held the post of treasurer with an independent fundraising body, the Friends of St Patrick's Cathedral.

The cases of abuse that have been notified to the Cathedral date from the period 1978 to 1989. The community here is shocked at the enormity of the crimes perpetrated by Patrick O'Brien. These crimes against children have caused feelings of revulsion and immense sadness.

St Patrick's Cathedral is committed to ensuring the safety of all children in its care. The Cathedral fully implements the Church of Ireland's child protection policy 'Safeguarding Trust'.

St Patrick's Cathedral apologises sincerely and unreservedly for the fact that those victims and their families who needed and were entitled to care and support did not receive this. Once again, it commends the courage of Patrick O'Brien's victims in coming forward.

**Dean McCarthy removed offender from volunteer role at St. Patrick's**

In yesterday's edition of the international Anglican paper "The Church Times" a report by the Irish correspondent Greg Ryan stated that Mr O'Brien "never held office or was employed by the cathedral."

The report later stated, "The retired Dean of St Patrick's, the Very Revd Dr Robert McCarthy, commenting on the case afterwards, said the abuse at the cathedral took place before his tenure there, but he was alerted to a previous conviction of the defendant for abusing a former pupil of the cathedral grammar school at the age of eight, who was also in the choir.

"Dr McCarthy said that he was approached by the victim, now aged 44, who, aged 15, had told his parents, and a complaint had been made to the Gardai. Mr O'Brien had pleaded guilty, and received a suspended sentence, and had continued to volunteer at St. Patrick's, where he continued abusing.

"On learning of the court case, Dr McCarthy had removed him from his position as a volunteer worker, and Mr O'Brien had stopped coming to the cathedral."

## Archbishop of Canterbury in online Advent course

Christians are being invited to *get more out of the Bible with Justin Welby* through a new free online course which is being made available during Advent. The Advent course is being made available by ChurchNext, a company which “creates online Christian learning experiences that shape disciples” and is supported by the Presiding Bishop of the US-based Episcopal Church and the Bible in the Life of the Church project.

The online course, *Getting more out of the Bible with Justin Welby*, will be available from Advent Sunday (27 November) to Christmas Eve and will help “everyone to draw closer to God through the Bible,” ChurchNext said.

“We are living in divisive and complex times where honing abilities to live peaceful, wholehearted lives is increasingly difficult,” they said in a statement. “The Bible regularly proves to be the inspiration behind lives of kindness, authenticity, and reconciliation.”

Archbishop Justin Welby commented: “A key message of the Bible is transformation. And now, more than ever, our lives, communities, and society will all benefit from the re-discovery of the Bible as a source of transformation.”

ChurchNext say that the online course will take an average learner some 45 minutes to complete. It contains a series of video lectures, quizzes, and discussions. It can be completed by individuals and ChurchNext are making resources available for congregational use.

- [\*Click here\*](#) to register for the *Getting more out of the Bible with Justin Welby course and for more information.*

## **News briefs**

**+++ Dublin Walk of Light 2016 this Sunday -** Dublin Council of Churches' Walk of Light 2016 takes place on Sunday November 20 starting at St Teresa's Carmelite Church on Clarendon Street at 4.00 pm. The pilgrimage will also take in Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church and conclude at Methodist Centenary Church, Leeson Park. This is the 12th year of the

ecumenical journey in which people of all walks of life are invited to join together for the Walk of Light, expressing hope and prayer for light in dark times. This year's theme is 'Do not consider the things of old, I am about to do a new thing' (Isaiah 43). It will be explored in each of the three host churches along the route as the journey unfolds. All three stops combine to make one liturgy which has been prepared by local groups, lay and clergy, from the different Christian traditions in the area. The Walk of Light will begin with a welcome and opening prayer in St Teresa's Carmelite Church on Clarendon Street leaving there at approximately 4.30 pm. The walk will proceed to Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church, arriving at approximately 5.00 pm. Pilgrims will depart from Adelaide Road at about 5.30 pm heading for Methodist Centenary Church on Leeson Park arriving at 6.00 pm. Following the service there, light refreshments will be served. People are invited to take part in the full walk or simply join a section of it. The Walk of Light is organised in cooperation with the local Church of Ireland, Ethiopian Orthodox, Korean, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic congregations. For more information on the

Dublin Council of Churches see

[www.dublinchurches.ie](http://www.dublinchurches.ie)

**+++ On a Starry Night** - Planning your November diary? Why not join the Stormont School of Singing for this Concert featuring Tutors and Students of the School alongside Guest Compère Brenda McNeill (BBC "The Fall") and Guest Performer George Okikiolu on African Drums! Sat 26th Nov 7.30pm at St Jude's Parish Church, Ormeau Road, Belfast. All proceeds will go to NI Chest Heart and Stroke..  
[www.stormontsinging.com](http://www.stormontsinging.com)

**+++ New Wine Ireland** - Booking is now open for New Wine Sligo 17. The conference will run from 9th – 14th July at the Institute of Technology, Sligo. The organisers state, "Sligo17 provides a space and a place where churches and Christians from all over Ireland, can come together to hear God, so that local churches can be empowered and equipped to change their community and Ireland." Book before 30th November for the best prices. More information on the conference at [www.newwineireland.org](http://www.newwineireland.org)

**+++ Liverpool input at Connor clergy quiet morning** - The Very Rev Pete Wilcox, Dean of



Liverpool, gave two talks, the first entitled Lamentations in Advent: The cry of those who suffer violence, and the second was Revelation in Advent: The fate of those who perpetrate violence.

Dean Wilcox trained at Ridley Hall in Cambridge after completing a degree in modern history at Durham University. He served as a curate on Teesside, and then studied for a doctorate at Oxford University, before returning to the Durham Diocese to serve as a team vicar in the Parish of Gateshead. During this time he assisted in the training of ordinands at Cranmer Hall as Director of its Urban Mission Centre. Theological education and training remains a key area of interest for the dean, and bible teaching is his chief passion. In 1998 he took up a new position as priest in charge of St Paul's Church at the Crossing in Walsall – an ambitiously re-ordered town centre church combining the leadership of a Christian Social Enterprise with that of a thriving congregation. He established a ministry leadership team there, committed to empowering and facilitating the contribution of the whole people of God in mission. Between August 2006 and July 2012 he was Canon Chancellor at Lichfield Cathedral, a post which involved

oversight of the Cathedral's work in education and outreach.

He is married to a writer, Catherine Fox. They have two adult sons. Pete is a fan of all ball sports, and follows the fortunes of Newcastle United especially closely. He is the author of three books: 'Living the Dream' (2007), 'Walking the Walk (2009) and 'Talking the Talk' (2011). The event was hosted at Lisburn Cathedral on November 10. by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, who welcomed clergy and the special guest.

**+++ Dunboyne school Christmas Fair** - On Saturday, December 3rd St Peters National School (Church Of Ireland) Dunboyne is hosting its annual Christmas Fair in the Parish Centre between 10am and 2pm. The day offers great entertainment and promises lots of festive fun for all the family with Stalls providing Games, Crafts, Home Baking, Gifts, Decorations and many more. There will be a Raffle with fantastic prizes to be won and a very special visitor will be welcomed on the day! Admission is free. All proceeds raised on the day will go towards purchasing equipment and resources for the school. According to Lorraine Corcoran,

Chairperson of the Parent Teacher Association,  
"The school highly depends on fundraising  
events such as the annual Christmas Fair to  
cover daily running costs".

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **Somme: Irish priest's chalice brought to grave 100 years after he died**

BBC News

A Belfast man tells how a silver chalice belonging to an  
Irish priest who died at the Battle of the Somme was  
brought from Ireland to his grave in France.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-38024206>

### **Secret war against IRA: Main body progressing 'collusion' is the police ombudsman**

News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/secret-war-against-ira-main-body-progressing-collusion-is-the-police-ombudsman-1-7683725>

### **Nicola Sturgeon 'happy' to explore possibility of helping Northern Irish women obtain abortions in Scotland**

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/nicola-sturgeon-happy-to-explore-possibility-of-helping-northern-irish-women-obtain-abortions-in-scotland-35224027.html>

## **SNP's Sturgeon told to butt out after abortion row 'invite' to Northern Ireland women**

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/snps-sturgeon-told-to-butt-out-after-abortion-row-invite-to-northern-ireland-women-35225313.html>

## **NI 11+ Selection panel named**

News Letter

The team of educational professionals appointed to seek progress on a single school transfer test has been named by the education minister.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/minister-names-panel-on-streamlining-academic-selection-in-northern-ireland-1-7686031>

## **NASUWT teachers strike could face legal challenge**

BBC News

The body representing teaching employers is considering legal action against a strike plan by some teachers.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-38017187>

## **Mail/Christian Today/Premier**

Further coverage that the Archbishop of Canterbury is joining an economic justice commission launched by the Institute for

Public Policy Research (IPPR) that will seek to craft a new vision for the UK economy in 2030. Archbishop Justin joins other leading figures from business, trade unions and civil society as part of the Commission on Economic Justice. Archbishop Justin described the two year inquiry as "a unique opportunity to reflect on the vision for our economy for the next 20 years and, in a time of significant change and uncertainty, seek to put our economy on a foundation of values and virtues".

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3943994/Profound-policy-change-needed-make-UKs-economy-work.html>

### Christian Today

Report that Church of England bishops joined MPs and peers in calling on the Government to address human rights abuses against religious minorities in Iran. Hundreds of people are imprisoned because of their faith in the country, according to human rights groups, Christian Today reports. The article quotes the former Bishop of Oxford, John Pritchard, and the Bishop of Croydon, Jonathan Clark who had joined MPs as well as peers at a meeting highlighting the issue.

## Mail

Report that hundreds of guests will attend a remembrance service in France marking the 100th anniversary of the final day of the Battle of the Somme. A daily service has been hosted by the Royal British Legion at the Thiepval Memorial to The Missing to commemorate each day of the bloody four-and-a-half month offensive which started on July 1 1916. Friday's service will be led by the Bishop of Carlisle, James Newcome, the Royal British Legion's national chaplain, to commemorate the centenary of the final day of the battle, which was fought by 60 nations from across the British Empire and Europe across a 15-mile front in northern France.

## **Guard** (Thursday)

Report that churches that are theologically conservative with beliefs based on a literal interpretation of the Bible grow faster than those with a liberal orientation, according to a Canadian study. The authors of the study surveyed Protestant church goers in Ontario and conducted interviews with clergy and congregants.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/17/literal-interpretation-of-bible-helps-increase-church-attendance>

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