



Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko meets with Pope Francis at the Vatican on Nov. 20, 2015. Report this issue.

Irish Minister for Tourism hopes Pope will visit Knock

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Sean Ryan in Catholic Ireland - The Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Michael Ring, has said that he hopes that Pope Francis will visit Knock Shrine if he visits Ireland in 2018.

In October it was announced that Dublin will host the 'World Meeting of Families' in three years' time, and it has been speculated that that Pope Francis may use this as an opportunity to visit Ireland.

While details of the major religious gathering have yet to be worked out, it is likely take place at the RDS, a venue which was also used for the International Eucharistic Congress in 2012.

If Pope Francis does visit Ireland, Mass in the Phoenix Park is speculated as a likely finale to

the occasion of the World Meeting of Families, as nowhere else could accommodate expected numbers.

There is also speculation that the Pontiff may also visit Northern Ireland, possibly Armagh, the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland, and that he may also visit the West of Ireland.

Speaking at last week's monthly meeting of Mayo County Council, Minister Ring who is a TD for Mayo said, "I hope the Pope sees fit to come to Knock and relaunch Knock Shrine. If he comes to Ireland I hope he comes to Knock too."

The comments were made during his presentation to Council members on tourism in the county and what he hopes they can achieve.

Minister Ring explained that 4,500 people were employed in the tourism sector in Mayo, and he stressed the significant potential of the Wild Atlantic Way, which he said "has put the west of Ireland and Mayo on the map".

He added that Knock plays a huge role in tourism in the West of Ireland.

He recalled the visit in August of Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Archbishop of New York, who
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flew into Knock with the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Brown, and over 170 passengers, as part of the first diocesan pilgrimage from the Archdiocese of New York to Knock.

Speaking at the Mayo County Council meeting, Fianna Fáil councillor and election candidate, Lisa Chambers claimed that Knock Airport was being overlooked by the present Government compared to the support given to Shannon Airport.

She said that if pilgrimage tourism was to improve in the West of Ireland more supports would have to be given to Knock Airport.

Multi-faith service to launch Dublin C of I's year of Come and C

A multi-faith all age service is being held to officially launch Dublin and Glendalough diocesan year of Come&C. The special event is on Saturday December 12 at 3.00 pm and people from all over the dioceses are invited. 'Living in the Light' is a multi-faith service which

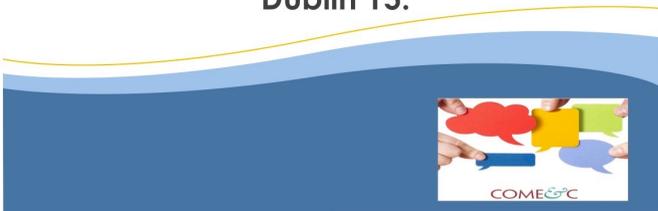


Multi-faith Service

12 December 2015 @ 3pm

**Join us in a celebration of faith in our
community.**

**Castleknock Community College,
Dublin 15.**



will take place in Castleknock Community
College, Dublin 15.

This multi-faith all age service will include music,
readings, testimony, creative activities and prayer
space where you can take time out to hear how

God wants you to be His light within your community.

The service forms part of a yearlong programme of occasional songs of praise type events. Each service will bear the unique mark of the host community with the service on December 12 reflecting the diverse, multi-cultural and multi-faith environment that can be found in this vibrant and fast-growing part of Dublin.

Extending an invitation to all to attend, Archbishop Michael Jackson said he was delighted with the response to Come&C. “The enthusiasm shown by members of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough around the Come&C initiative has been wonderful. It has built up during the autumn with a Come&C Day in High School, Dublin, meetings across Rural Deaneries and a presentation by Dr David Tuohy at Diocesan Synods. I am very excited by the service to launch the Year of Come&C on December 12 and wish to encourage all members of the dioceses to come,” he commented.

The invitation to Come&C – the call of Jesus to the first disciples – will be issued throughout Dublin and Glendalough in 2016. The initiative is

aimed at the entire United Dioceses and will look at ways of supporting individuals and parishes in their discipleship.

People will have the opportunity to reflect on what is happening in the dioceses through the lens of the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion. During the year there will also be a focus on the search for reflection, service and growth at individual, parish and diocesan levels. The theme of the year will be Welcome, Worship and Witness and groups of parishes in Rural Deaneries have been identifying projects that will develop aspects of the theme.

A map indicating the location of Castleknock Community College can be found at: <https://www.google.com/maps?ll=53.373418,-6.391249&z=15&t=m&hl=en&gl=US&mapclient=embed&q=Castleknock+Community+College+Carpenterstown+Rd+Dublin+15,+Ireland>

Free concert to mark 350th Anniversary of Down parish church whose son discovered chocolate

Whilst Killyleagh is a town that is perhaps best known for its castle, believed to be the oldest still inhabited in Ireland, there is also another



prominent local landmark celebrating an important milestone in 2015.

Situated on top of the hill just a few hundred metres opposite the castle, St John the Evangelist, Killyleagh Parish Church, has reached its 375th birthday, meaning that the town is also now home to one of the oldest churches still in use in the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

The history of the church however, which was first formed in 1640, is colourful and stretches back even further than this, as its roots are buried in Killyleagh's original church dating to medieval times.

Twenty years after it was consecrated, in 1660, one of the church's most famous parishioners was baptised at the same font still in use today. Sir Hans Sloane as he became known, was born in Killyleagh and grew to become a celebrated scholar, physician and collector.

His thousands of personal artefacts became the founding displays in the British Museum, and he is also credited as the founder of chocolate, having discovered cocoa in Jamaica and developed a recipe to manufacture it.

To celebrate the 375th Anniversary of a church on the top of the hill, Killyleagh Parish are organising a concert on 28 November at 7.00 pm. The concert will feature the Kerygma Choir (who sang for Archbishop of Canterbury at Down Cathedral on Saint Patrick's Day this year) Paul Young, Principal Trumpet with the Ulster Orchestra and Jana Walsh, a Soprano who sings with Down High School and Downpatrick Cathedral choirs. The compere for the evening will be BBC's Karen Patterson.

Entrance to the concert is free, the organisers want as many people as possible to celebrate with them on this momentous occasion.

Ahoghill parish Christmas Tree festival will aid hospice

Forty beautifully decorated Christmas trees will be on display in St Colmanell's Parish Church, Ahoghill, which is running a Festival of Christmas Trees from November 26- December 1.

The festival is in aid of the NI Hospice and the parish buildings fund.

Using lights, scriptures, music, choirs and 40 wonderfully crafted Christmas trees the Christian story will be told from Genesis to the resurrection, with particular emphasis on the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

There will be trees which reflect the beauty and joy of Christ's birth and life but also more unusual ones which will illustrate other aspects of His life and the wider and deeper meaning of the Gospel story.

Opening times are:

- Thursday November 26 7-9pm
- Friday November 27 10am-9pm
- Saturday November 28 10am-9pm

- Sunday November 29 2pm-6.30pm
(Sunday Advent services at 11.30am and 9pm)
- Monday November 30 10am-9pm
- Tuesday December 1 10am-9pm

Refreshments will be available. For bookings please contact 07761 818414.

West Glendalough Songs of Praise

West Glendalough “Songs of Praise” takes place in St Mary’s, Blessington, on Sunday November 22 2015 at 3.00 pm. The service will be followed by refreshments in St Kevin’s Community Centre (1 Tray of Tray Bakes per car would be appreciated please).

Please send your Top 5 Favourite Hymns to:
Rev. Leonard Ruddock, The Rectory, 13 Ashton, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, before November 11.
(Part of the year of “Come and C”)

Battle against cancer inspires Parish Reader’s book of poetry and prayer

“Behold his Beauty” is Barbara Wilson's second book of Poetry & Prayer. The writing of the book



Parish Reader Barbara Wilson with her second book of poetry and prayer

was inspired by the faith shown by her friend Lorna Tweedie who lost her battle against cancer last year and to whom the book is dedicated.

Barbara's poetry and prayers are challenging, moving and inspirational, touching on the eternal nature of religious belief whilst also addressing contemporary issues. This little book would be a great aid during private devotions and invaluable when facing the reality of life.

The book is available from Faith Mission book shops and St Marks Church, Armagh 028 37523197. Or by contacting Barbara by email: b_wilson1@btinternet.com
churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Barbara is a Parish Reader in St Mark's Armagh and her book will be officially launched on Thursday 3rd December 2015 at 7.30pm in St Marks, Armagh.

Former Belfast Boys Model School pupils launch new bursary in memory of former headteacher

Former pupils from a Belfast school have launched a new bursary in memory of their headteacher.

The group of former Belfast Boys Model School pupils have launched the bursary in memory of Ernie Davies, their former headteacher and school sporting legend who recently passed away.

They have set up a bursary which will provide three students with a payment of £3,000 each.

Mr Davies was a popular and well-known figure that started off as a teacher in 1945 when the school was still for primary age and who, throughout his 43 year tenure, gained promotion



Sir Nigel Hamilton, Deputy Lord Mayor Alderman Guy Spence and Cooper Carl Sheridan, Head Boy

to Vice Principal and later Headmaster up and until his retirement in 1988.

In 1971, he made history as the Coach of the First XV when the Model became the first, and only, non-selective school to win the rugby Schools Cup.

The criteria for the bursary has been set by the school's Principal and senior management and include adhering to the Belfast Boys' Model School core values of respect, integrity &

commitment, attaining the highest grades at A-Level and the students who receive the bursary must be taking up a university place.

Chair of the Board and one of the former pupils involved in launching the bursary, Sir Nigel Hamilton said: “We are delighted to be able to offer this opportunity to three Model students in memory of a Model legend who devoted over 40 years of his life to the school.

“Ernie Davies was a giant of a man and thanks to this bursary, his legacy will last more than a lifetime. We strongly feel that this is most definitely something Ernie himself would have supported and wanted for “his boys”.”

In Pope's meeting with Ukrainian president, peace takes centre stage

Pope Francis yesterday met with Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko, discussing both the good relations between Ukraine and the Vatican, as well as their shared concerns over the current conflict with Russia.

A Nov. 20 communique from the Vatican described the encounter as “cordial,” with

discussion “dedicated principally to matters connected with the situation of conflict in the country.”

Conflict erupted in Ukraine in February of last year when the country’s former president was ousted following months of violent protest, and a new government appointed.

In March 2014 Ukraine’s eastern peninsula of Crimea was annexed by Russia, and pro-Russian separatist rebels have since taken control of eastern portions of Ukraine around Donetsk and Luhansk.

It is estimated that nearly 6,000 people have died in the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Rebels have been supported by both Russian arms and troops, according to both Ukraine and Western nations.

A ceasefire agreed on in Minsk officially began at midnight Feb. 15, and called for all sides to pull back heavy weapons.

However, despite the agreement of a ceasefire and the slight fall in violence since it was reached, numerous violations have been

reported, broadening the country's humanitarian crisis and number of casualties.

In the Pope's Nov. 20 meeting with Poroshenko, the hope was expressed that political solutions could be found to the conflict with the commitment of all parties involved, beginning with "the full implementation of the Minsk Accords."

Difficulties surrounding the humanitarian crisis, particularly the access of specialized organizations to affected areas, were also addressed.

Healthcare, the exchange of prisoners, and the economic and social repercussions of the conflict, which are felt throughout the country, were other topics brought up.

Also highlighted was the important role of the Church in society, as well as the positive contribution of both the Greek Catholic and Latin Rites to the life of the country.

Media digest

Young missionaries spreading Good News

The Irish Catholic

I got to know the NET team that year and in getting to know them I got to know a lot more about the Catholic **Church**. They helped me understand my ...

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/young-missionaries-spreading-good-news>

No school refusal for children based on religion – State agency

Irish Times

The **Irish** Human Rights and Equality Commission has recommended that existing laws be changed in order to eliminate discrimination in school ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/no-school-refusal-for-children-based-on-religion-state-agency-1.2433688>

Fix Ireland's educational system: Hindu community urges Council of Europe

Merinews

Hindus want end to religious preferences in admission to schools in Ireland. Distinguished Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada (USA) today, said that religion should not play any role in admissions to Irish schools.

Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, indicated that religious discrimination in tax funded schools was quite unfair and should be unacceptable in twentyfirstcentury Ireland.

Rajan Zed noted that practice of religious majority controlling the school doors and schools indulging in kind

of state-sanctioned indoctrination was simply wrong and should end.

Zed urged Council of Europe to seriously look into the educational system of Ireland and make it fair for minority religions and non-believers.

<http://www.merineews.com/article/fix-irelands-educational-system-hindu-community-urges-council-of-europe/15911285.shtml>

BBC/Mirror/Guardian

All-night vigils will be held across the UK next summer to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme in WW1. A national vigil is to be held at Westminster Abbey on 30 June, with other overnight events being held in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Co Down. There will also be a commemorative service the following day at Manchester Cathedral. More than 600,000 British and French troops died during the WW1 battle.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34868249>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/night-vigils-mark-100th-anniversary-6865271>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/20/uk-to-mark-centenary-start-battle-of-somme-overnight-vigils>

Times

Comment article on the independent QC investigation into the collapse of HBOS bank. The report notes that a lack of curiosity by Sir Hector Sants, the former chief executive of the Financial Services Authority, who it notes is an adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury, as one factor at the heart of the HBOS enforcement process.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/industries/banking/article4618714.ece>

Times/Exp/Metro/Tel/Mail

A man who converted from Islam to Christianity is in hospital recovering after an alleged religious hate crime. Nissar Hussain, a father of six, was attacked on Tuesday as he left his house in Bradford. Police said that the incident was being investigated and have recorded it as a religious hate crime.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4618730.ece>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/620750/Father-attacked-pickaxe-religious-hate-crime-Islam-Christianity>

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/11/19/moment-dad-is-attacked-with-pickaxe-for-converting-from-islam-to-christianity-5513755/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/12005859/Bradford-father-living-in-fear-after-converting-from-Islam-to-Christianity.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3325273/CCTV-catches-terrifying-moment-father-six-brutally-set-hooded-thugs-pickaxe-handle-targeted-blasphemer-converted-Islam-Christianity.html>

Mail

Feature article on the Community of Anglican Nuns who inspired BBC TVs "*Call the Midwife*". The five remaining sisters of the community of St John the Divine, Birmingham have regularly been asked by producers to advise for the series about their work. The sisters tell the paper, they never miss an episode.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-3326435/Nuns-inspired-Call-Midwife-don-t-penny-BBC.html>

Comment

Guard: Giles Fraser on 'after the Paris attacks we must resist the urge to claim an eye for an eye'.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2015/nov/19/after-the-paris-attacks-we-must-resist-the-urge-to-claim-an-eye-for-an-eye>

Mirror: Terry Waite, the former envoy to the Archbishop of Canterbury writes, "After the Paris attacks nations must unit to beat an evil enemy".

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/terry-waite-after-paris-attacks-6864935>

Telegraph: Comment on a speech by MP Sadiq Khan calling on British Muslims to integrate.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/12005871/Islam-is-still-rooted-in-the-values-of-the-dark-ages-and-until-we-accept-that-we-will-never-get-rid-of-radicalism.html>

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