



Enhanced visitor experience at St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny

St Canice's Cathedral, one of the city's most important historical, architectural, archaeological and religious sites has completed extensive improvement to enhance visitor experience. The

result was unveiled on Friday last, Sean Keane writes in Kilkenny People

The work was made possible by an €80,000 grant from Fáilte Ireland as part of the Ireland's Ancient East initiative.

Ireland's Ancient East is Fáilte Ireland's latest tourism initiative and seeks to build on the wealth of historical and cultural assets in the east and south of Ireland.

St Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower are an essential part of the structural heritage of our vibrant medieval city.

The ecclesiastical site is the founding site of Kilkenny city. The Cathedral authorities are delighted with the completion of the interpretation elements which enhance the experience of visiting a Cathedral even further.

Mirador Media designed a non-intrusive visitor flow with the aid of custom made barriers constructed from damaged pews.

Reconditioned timber was used to frame frosted vinyl and Perspex, designed to mimic the cathedral's stained glass.

Specially designed books interpreting key elements of the cathedral were fixed to lecterns also made from reconditioned pews.

Stand-alone display panels were designed for the interpretation area along with children's activities. This new interpretation builds on elements designed and built by Mirador at St. Canice's previously.

In the round tower adjacent to the cathedral Mirador Media produced three audio commentaries/soundscapes which educate and guide visitors up the 30 metre tower and through its history.

Part of the brief was to re-design the retail area and to provide a modular seating and staging system to support the cathedral's programme of events.

For the retail area Mirador designed units and counters inspired by the book stalls of the Seine in Paris. This bespoke concept furniture allows all

goods to be presented in an attractive manner in units that are in keeping with the church's furnishings

Any visitor to Kilkenny city or student should start their visit at the site where the origins of the city began at St Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower.

You can explore the cathedral and Round Tower and witness the raw materials used by the stonemasons in the 12th Century. The Round Tower is the oldest standing structure in the city, which predates the Anglo Norman Conquest in Kilkenny.

Build your own Cathedral using the building blocks supplied and enjoy hours of fun on your own or in company. Sense a site that has been used for worship since 600 a.d. Hear and see the bell ringers of the Cathedral as you look through the keyhole of the bell tower door. Read the very interesting stories associated with the Cathedral and city such as Saints, Anchorites, Knights and Bishop Ledrede and the Dame Alice Kytler's trial. The model of the city housed in the new interpretative area of the Cathedral provides a wonderful insight to the medieval city. The grant

also aided a new welcome area, seating, stage and lighting equipment for events and an interactive experience in the Round Tower.

Speaking about the launch Dean Katharine Poulton of the cathedral said visitors can learn more about the surroundings from the beautiful interpretative panels and books. “And for young and young at heart there are some hands-on activities. We are now uniquely placed to tell the story of St Canice’s Cathedral and Round Tower from its inception to the present day,” she said.

In addition to the interpretative material, the provision of staging and flexible seating makes the Cathedral a space for telling the story in word and music, for inviting people in who might not usually come and for sensitive use of the space by other users.”

Jenny DeSaulles, Head of Ireland’s Ancient East commented, “Fáilte Ireland is delighted to support the further development of St Canice’s Cathedral as a visitor experience. This attraction will not only significantly benefit tourism in Kilkenny but it is also a perfect fit for Ireland’s Ancient East – our latest initiative which is firmly rooted in our past and our stories”.

“By using effective interpretative techniques the sacred story of St Canice’s is brought to life for the visitor while maintaining the serenity of this Sacred site. The access and interpretation to the Round Tower creates a unique experience of climbing a round tower in Ireland, enhancing both Kilkenny and Ireland’s Ancient East”

All–Ireland Prayer Vigil in Londonderry against gender–based violence

The Diocesan President of Mothers’ Union, Mary Good, has invited people in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe to support next weekend’s All–Ireland Prayer Vigil in Londonderry against gender–based violence. The vigil, at St Columb’s Cathedral, is part of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign.

Mothers’ Union is one of more than 130 groups throughout Ireland supporting the 16 Days of Activism Campaign. Mrs Good says Saturday afternoon’s event is an opportunity for the whole community – not just women and girls – to show their opposition to gender–based violence and to

do something about it. Mrs Good says the vigil is an awareness-raising initiative aimed at ending violence against women locally, nationally and internationally.

“Globally, one in every three women will experience some form of gender violence in their lifetime,” she says. “In Ireland, statistics show that one in five women is affected by domestic violence. In the 20 years since Women’s Aid began recording violence against women in Ireland, 211 women have been murdered. More than half of them were killed by their husband or ex-husband, a partner or an ex-partner.”

Mrs Good says the weekend vigil will be an opportunity for local people – men and women – to join in prayerful solidarity with Mothers’ Union members around the world in seeking to end gender-based violence. “We want to spread the critically important message that violence against women and children is never okay. We need to take action on this issue and we need to change attitudes.”

Mothers’ Union Dioceses will be holding vigils at a variety of locations through Ireland on Saturday 26th November. The Derry and Raphoe vigil will

take place at St Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry from 2–4pm. For more information, please see: www.derry.mothersunion.ie, www.mothersunion.org or www.mothersunion.ie.

Mothers' Union operates in 83 countries and has 4 million members worldwide. It works to support stable family life and to end violence against women and girls, through prayer, practical support, advocacy and campaigning.

International Anglican recognition of Dublin diocese's refugee work

At a celebration of Holy Communion in the chapel of the Anglican Centre, Rome, on the Feast of St Cecilia, martyr and musician, the director of the centre, Archbishop David Moxon, presented to the Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough a Lampadusa Cross in recognition of the commitment of the dioceses to working with the Irish Refugee Council for the well-being of refugees arriving in the Dublin area in the future.



The Lampadusa Cross is highly symbolic and rich in spiritual meaning as a limited number of these crosses was made by an Italian man from wood from a boat that sank close to the island of Lampadusa off the Italian coast. The boat was carrying refugees and all of them perished. It is a symbol of hope in the future built on the saving work of Jesus Christ today and tomorrow as yesterday.

The Archbishop spoke of the work of the Committee established by Diocesan Councils and spearheaded by Canon Horace McKinley, Dr Sharee Basdeo and the Reverend Olive

Donohoe ([the Diocesan Appeal for Refugee Housing](#)). He then handed the cross and the explanation of it given to him by Dr Moxon to Olive to bring to St Michael's Church, Athy, where it will be housed.

Commenting, the Archbishop said: "For all of us who are members of the Dublin and Glendalough retreat and pilgrimage to the Anglican Centre, Rome, this is a moment of grace and of commissioning to service of the neighbour we know and of the neighbour we do not yet know. We seek God's blessing and God's guidance in this work, praying for all who are refugees, all who are trafficked and all who are humiliated to the point of degradation, destruction and death by events in Syria and the Middle East in particular. We remain mindful of all who suffer through inhuman behaviour and treatment by others across the world. We pray for the work of all agencies involved in this field and for the work of the Anglican Centre in Rome and for its sense of mission and of the Kingdom of God today".

President Higgins speaks out against xenophobia

Widespread Islamophobia is “fuelled by an ignorance of the politics and history of the Middle East, ill informed stereotyping, a blindness to the many ways in which our Muslim citizens and residents enrich our lives, and a misrepresentation of the tenets of the Islamic faith itself,” said President Michael D. Higgins, on a visit to the Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland (ICCI) in Dublin during its Annual Neighbourhood Week, 2016.

He added that events such as the Islamic Centre Neighbourhood Week enable deeper understanding of different traditions and cultures.

True integration is a “mutual process requiring both active participation and real engagement between host countries, and the newer communities they wish to welcome into their society,” said the President.

Recent decades have seen Ireland become an increasingly multicultural society. The Muslim population has grown in the past twenty years and is now estimated at 65,000. This Muslim community includes citizens from Pakistan, Nigeria, Malaysia, Algeria, Libya, Somalia, South Africa, Syria and Iraq.

People have migrated to Ireland after fleeing war and persecution, for study and work purposes, to seek new opportunities, and to reunite with family members already here.

“The conflict in so many parts of the world has given rise to a huge tide of people who no longer have a safe place to call home,” said President Higgins. “Most who come share the hope of a peaceful existence and an opportunity to contribute to their new communities and society.”

This year the Islamic Cultural Centre celebrates its twentieth anniversary. The President thanked Sheikh Hussein Halawa, Imam Dr Nooh Al Kaddo, and Mr Shaheen Ahmed for welcoming him to the Centre.

Separately this week, President Higgins held a reception for the delegates of the World Jewish Congress at Áras an Uachtaráin. He told the delegates: “It is not acceptable to see armed police outside synagogues and Jewish schools across European cities.”

He stated the people must combat all forms of discrimination and exclusion, wherever they arise.

Ireland was ‘not exempt’ from anti-Jewish prejudice, President says

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/ireland-was-not-exempt-from-anti-jewish-prejudice-president-says-1.2878093#.WDS2gJkGaeg.twitter>

News briefs

+++ Celebrating St Cecilia’s Day - Heavenly music filled St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast, on the night of Tuesday November 22 when the Cathedral joined with Corrymeela to present “Cantata!” – a concert to celebrate St Cecilia’s Day. The concert featured three choirs – Jubilate! Chamber Choir, St Anne’s Girls’ Choir and the Voices Together Community Choir. There were reflections from the Very Rev John Mann, Dean of Belfast, and Pádraig Ó Tuama, leader of the Corrymeela Community, and poetry from Sinead Morrissey.

St Cecilia, born in the second century, is a famous Roman Martyr – she was reported to have been beheaded by a sword. She is the Patron Saint of Music, and a number of musical compositions are dedicated to her. Her feast day, November 22, has become the occasion for

concerts and musical festivals. The concert in St Anne's Cathedral raised funds for the Corrymeela Community, Northern Ireland's oldest centre for peace and reconciliation, and for the Cathedral.

+++ Clogher Diocesan Advent Carol Service - Sunday 27th November in St Macartan's Cathedral, Clogher at 7.00pm.

+++ Music for Advent in Killough - An evening of Music for Advent will take place on Friday 2nd December, in the Parish Church of St Anne, Killough at 8pm. Soloists on the evening will be: Michael McCracken, who will be known to many as Organist and Director of Music in Down Cathedral. Michael is also a tutor on the Diocesan Organ Scholarship Scheme; Sister Judith, a member of the Anglican Order of the Sisters of the Love of God who is spending this year living as part of the community of the Little Sisters of Jesus in Ardglass (Sister Judith recently attended the Diocesan Clergy Conference as a guest of Bishop Harold Miller); The Revd Julie Bell, who is presently Curate Assistant in Christ Church Lisburn. Prior to ordination, Julie was Director of Music in Hillsborough and Bangor Parishes, and has

performed as a soloist on numerous occasions in venues including the Waterfront Hall, Belfast. Speaking about the upcoming recital, the Revd Adrian Dorrian, who has responsibility for the Parish of Killough within the Lecale Area Mission Partnership, said, “The candlelit setting of St Anne’s, right on the water’s edge, will be a perfect setting for this evening of music. We’d like to invite anyone and everyone to come along and enjoy the wonderful selection of music on offer. The run up to Christmas can be busy, even frenetic, but for a few hours on Friday 9th December we hope that people will find time and space in this lovely setting for peace and reflection.”

+++ Developing in Prayer - on Saturday 26th November – 9.30 – 11.00am in Fivemiletown Parish. Revd Canon Raymond Fox has been invited to speak about Contemplative Prayer, also called Prayer Of The Inner Heart. He will speak at church on one Sunday in the Autumn and also conduct two practical workshops where he will speak more about prayer and make time for prayer. To book contact the Parish Office on 028 895 22422 or stjohnsfivemiletown@btconnect.co

+++ Rossory Christmas Tree Festival -

Thursday 24th - Sunday 27th November 2016 – Christmas Tree Festival: 'Joy to the World' in Rossorry Parish to celebrate its 175th Anniversary. Opening Ceremony at 7.30pm; Friday 25th 10.00am-9.00m; Saturday 26th 10.00am-9.00pm; Sunday 27th 2.30-6.00pm with Closing Carol Service at 7.30pm. Musical entertainment and refreshments will be provided throughout the weekend.

+++ Human stories in Roscrea - It had long been in the mind of Diocesan Reader and local church historian Mr Adrian Hewson to bring together the human stories linking World War One and the Easter Rising. It happened in August, with the support of Roscrea Heritage Association. St Cronan's Church, Roscrea, held an exhibition of artifacts with a breathtaking flower display of 'Human Stories'. It was important to Adrian that the church building be used as St Cronan himself would like it used: bringing people together. Adrian emphasised the whole community nature of involvement in creating the event: "Working hands' which prepared each exhibit so skilfully and lovingly, 'holding hands' together in friendship a century after the turmoil, and 'praying hands' in peaceful

remembrance of all who suffered and died a century ago.” Many musical hands provided an extra flourish to a warm generous and very special occasion. Mr Michael Quin, secretary to the Tipperary Peace Convention and donor of the Tipperary International Peace Award, opened the event which ran over four days. Work on a booklet including Adrian’s historical notes and remarkable links to Roscrea will be on sale before Christmas.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Enda Kenny to invite Pope Francis to Ireland at Vatican meeting next week

Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/lifestyle/faithmatters/2016/11/23/news/enda-kenny-to-invite-pope-francis-to-ireland-at-vatican-meeting-next-week-799132/>

Aslan mane attraction as CS Lewis Square is opened

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/aslan-mane-attraction-as-cs-lewis-square-is-opened-35236915.html>

45,000-strong Northern Ireland abortion reform petition handed in at Stormont

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/health/45000strong-northern-ireland-abortion-reform-petition-handed-in-at-stormont-35236814.html>

Public meetings on Ashers case

News Letter

Defendants in two high-profile discrimination cases will share their experiences at a series of meetings hosted by the Christian Institute in Northern Ireland.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/christian-institute-meetings-will-discuss-ashers-1-7690762>

Christian Today

Report on the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to support persecuted Christians in Pakistan over the weekend. Archbishop Justin met victims in Lahore and Islamabad to pray after 72 were killed in a suicide attack aimed at Christians on Easter Sunday. He was invited on the trip by Bishop Samuel Azariah, moderator of the Church of Pakistan. Article notes it is the first time any Archbishop of Canterbury has visited Pakistan more than once.

Tel

Reports that as part of its Christmas schedule BBC Radio 3 has invited the Archbishop of York

to join an edition of *Private Passions*, a programme where guests talk their musical loves and hates, and the influence music has had on their lives.

BBC/Guard/Tel/Chichester Obs/Argus

Reports that an independent, lessons learnt review into how the Church of England handled the case of the late Bishop George Bell is to be led by barrister Lord Carlile, a Liberal Democrat peer (*see above*). The review is in accordance with the House of Bishops' guidance on all complex cases. Last year the Church settled a civil claim over allegations of sexual abuse by the Bishop Bell, in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Articles include comment from Lord Carlile and Bishop of Bath and Wells, Peter Hancock, the CofE's lead bishop on safeguarding. BBC includes video interview with Lord Carlile.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-38071313>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/23/exter-reviewer-lord-carlile-re-examine-bishop-bell-sex-abuse/>

<http://www.chichester.co.uk/news/top-qc-will-review-the-bishop-george-bell-case-1-7692720>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/23/church-of-england-appoints-lord-carlile-to-review-george-bell-claim>

Christian Today

Background article on the debate within the C of E over same-sex marriage. noting the House of Bishops meeting this week to discuss the issue.

BBC

Reports that a leading barrister has said that the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) has "crumbled" and may be impossible to fix. Michael Mansfield QC told the *BBC* the best way forward was to have separate chairs overseeing different areas. Mr Mansfield represented the families of victims in the Bloody Sunday inquiry and the Hillsborough inquest. The IICSA has been charged with investigating allegations of child sexual abuse in a wide range of institutions including the Church of England.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-38059845>

Even Stand/Exp/Guard

Further coverage that artist David Hockney will design a stained-glass window in Westminster Abbey to celebrate the Queen's reign. A spokesman for the Abbey said that Hockney was,

“the most appropriate choice” for the commission as he was “probably the greatest contemporary artist” and has been awarded Order of Merit by the Queen. Hockney says he will create a “landscape of blossom that’s a celebration of every year”, with design filling half of one of the few remaining plate glass windows. It will be funded by two anonymous benefactors.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/goingout/arts/david-hockney-will-design-a-window-in-westminster-abbey-to-celebrate-the-queens-reign-a3401751.html>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/734989/david-hockney-westminster-abbey-stained-glass-window-queen-elizabeth>

Christian Today

Further coverage that Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and Cathedral will be lit up red on Wednesday evening to remember those persecuted for their beliefs. The move is part of the Red Wednesday campaign by Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need "to honour those who have suffered because of their religion".

Times/Tel/BBC/Mail

Reports that a Roman Catholic Scottish Archbishop announced the launch of a smartphone app, using satellite technology, to help Catholics to find their nearest Mass or confession. Archbishop Leo Cushley of St Andrews & Edinburgh unveiled the App. “This is a little bit of smart technology that could make a big impact on how the Catholic Church brings the mercy of God and the joy of the gospel to our contemporary world,” he said. The app, expected to go live early next year, has been developed by the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh with Musemantik, a Scottish technology company.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-smartphone-app-that-will-appeal-to-the-masses-n60cmxn9z>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/22/catholic-churchs-sindr-app-urgent-confession/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-38064939>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3962270/Catholic-Church-launches-Sindr-phone-app-helps-quick-confession-sinned.html>