



Archbishop Thabo Makgoba on a climate change march.

Week to go before UN climate talks start

The United Nations climate change conference – Cop21 – begins next week in Paris, and there will be a large Anglican and ecumenical presence at the two-week event to lobby for a fair deal for the

world's poorest people – those most affected by catastrophic changes in the world's climate.

Security concerns following the terrorist attacks in the French capital earlier this month have meant that a planned march through the city by up to 200,000 people has been cancelled. But a number of events will still take place, including the handing over of a one-million-strong petition and an ecumenical service at Notre Dame Cathedral.

The Anglican presence will be headed by two primates: Archbishop Thabo Makgoba from the Anglican Church of Southern Africa; and Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Two of the “resident” Anglican bishops in Europe – the Church of England’s David Hamid and the Episcopal Church’s Pierre Whalon will also be there; as well as the C of E’s lead bishop for the environment, Bishop of Salisbury Nicholas Holtam; and the Bishop of Dudley, Graham Usher; as well as the Episcopal Church’s Bishop of California, Marc Andrus.

The Church of England, working with Cafod, Tearfund and Christian Aid, has organised a


Pilgrimage to Paris walk from London. Pilgrims taking part are praying for the talks and drawing attention to the urgent need for an international agreement for tackling climate change. Similar pilgrimages are taking place throughout Europe. And the British and Irish churches' aid agency Christian Aid is organising a cycle-ride to Paris.

Christians around the world are encouraged to play their part by praying for the talks and by or taking part in local marches for climate justice.

Wunderland - Rector's stories published as comics

A Church of Ireland rector's stories for children are being published as a comic

Children and adults are invited to join a new adventure and rediscover their sense of wonder with the launch of a new comic series. The Wunderland comics will bring familiar Bible stories to life for children through beautiful illustrations and engaging characters. Wunderland will be launched in Christ Church Bray on Sunday 29 November by the Archbishop of Dublin.



WELCOME TO
WUNDERLAND

IT IS A LAND LIKE NO OTHER,
FULL OF WONDER AND DELIGHT.

where the forgotten toys learn how to bring the real Wonder of Christmas to Jonathan and Luke. Their adventures bring them into conflict with the 'bathroom frogs', who will stop at nothing to find out the secrets of Wonderland...

Storyteller: Rev Baden Stanley Artist: Darren Nesbitt
Comics available to purchase (€5 each) from
Footprints Bookshop, Dun Laoghaire
or from Baden the Storyteller Tel: 087 948 4407
E-mail: wunderlandtrust@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/WunderlandTrust
www.wunderlandtrust.com

Wunderland is a place like no other, a place that is filled with “Magic” and delight. It is where Santa Claus lives. A Magic Snowflake introduces the story of how Wonder came to a home in Bray, County Wicklow, to bring forgotten toys to life to help them find the true meaning of Christmas. The toys become part of a very exciting adventure.

In a world where wonder seems to be forgotten, these beautifully illustrated comics will bring the enchanting stories of Santa and his Toys to a

new generation of children. They will be published monthly with a special bumper edition for Advent, just in time for grown-ups and children to read them together in the run up to Christmas.

Rev Baden Stanley, storyteller and creator of Wunderland said, "I was first inspired to write the Wunderland stories over 13 years ago and am delighted that our first set of comics will be available for Advent this year. The illustrations by Darren Nesbitt are stunning and capture the excitement and adventure in a unique and magical way. Our aim is to bring wonder to a new generation of children, many of whom are forced to grow up too quickly, using familiar Bible stories and giving a deeper insight into the people and events of ancient times."

This launch is just the beginning of the Wunderland journey. The storytrails have already been brought to life for pupils in a number schools and Baden and his team plan to visit churches and schools all around the country during 2016.

Wunderland Comics will be available to order through the website or by contacting Avril and

Baden Stanley (087 9484407) from November 29 at a cost of €5 each or at the special price of €30 for the first seven issues (including the Advent bumper edition).

Children and grown-ups are invited to pick up a comic and join us on our adventure by becoming Wunderlings (people who enjoy finding Wonder in the most surprising places). For further information, see www.wunderlandtrust.com and click like on Facebook.

Lord's Prayer is Archbishop of Armagh's focus in Diocesan Roadshows

The Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, is speaking this week at four meetings which are part of a series of diocesan roadshows. The talks are the final part of a series on prayer and, coincidentally to the recent debate about a proposed short pre-Christmas cinema advert, focus on the significance of the Lord's Prayer.

Archbishop Clarke says that we need to be careful in the use of the Lord's Prayer to 'avoid

becoming careless with it' and 'using it without due care and attention simply because of our familiarity with it'. He says, 'We use it in our public liturgies, but for very specific purposes and in very specific places. For example, before we receive Holy Communion, the Lord's Prayer is our corporate and shared action of prayer before "in love and charity with our neighbours" we move humbly forward as individual disciples to receive the sacrament.'

Regarding the debate over the advert, Archbishop Clarke says that while he is not sure if it is an appropriate place for an advertisement of this kind (although he enjoys the cinema) he notes that the cinema proprietors – while suggesting that they will not be drawn into religious or political controversy – are 'happy to show other advertisements that are certainly "plugging a particular line", socially, politically and culturally.' He continues, 'There are plenty of other advertisements, in the cinema and on TV, which wilfully demean Christmas and hence the religious sensibilities of believing Christians.'

As a final point, Archbishop Clarke suggests that the controversy has underlined the interesting fact that the Lord's Prayer 'is a prayer that

religious believers of almost any hue, may share in'. He says, 'It is a Christian prayer in that Christ taught it to us, but there is no reference to the Trinity or to the divinity of our Lord. It is based around the loving fatherhood of God and our relationship with Him and with the world around us. It is genuinely a prayer that those of other religions might pray without disrespect either to Christianity or to their own faith.'

Primus Chillingworth on Lord's Prayer cinema ban

in commenting on the refusal by leading cinemas to show a short advert of the Lord's Prayer, The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church says: "I watched the 'Prayer is for Everyone' video which will now not be shown in cinemas. I was personally moved by it. It shows a very diverse group of people. They connect their everyday life and work to the Lord's Prayer. This is not an attempt to package or to 'sell' religion. Rather it seeks to help people to make connections between life and faith.

“We are living through a time of great sensitivity about faith issues. The terrible events in Paris last week demonstrate that religiously motivated violence is one of the great challenges of our age. This is Scottish Interfaith Week, which reminds us of the challenge and the richness of living in a multi-faith and multi-cultural context. It is not in the best interests of our society that we should cultivate excessive sensitivity about what can be expressed. We all need to be able to look at and appreciate the integrity of one another’s faith. Most of all we need to be able to distinguish good religion from bad and not make the mistake of assuming that all religion must be seen as potentially offensive.”

The Primus spoke about this on BBC Radio Scotland’s ‘Good Morning Scotland’ programme on Monday 23 November at 07.55 – <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06pcz84#play> – his interview starts at 01:55:20

Nuala O’Loan to launch new book on impact of Vatican II on Ireland

The impact of Vatican II on Ireland is the theme of a major new book due to be launched later this month.



Baroness Nuala O'Loan

Irish Catholic - The book explores areas such as education, human rights, social justice, liturgy, society and theology. Vatican II is widely regarded as the most important religious event of the 20th Century, and the book will look at the impact of the council in Ireland and the future implementation of Vatican II teaching.

Ireland & Vatican II, Essays Theological, Pastoral and Educational will be launched by Baroness Nuala O'Loan at the offices of *The Irish Catholic*, St Mary's, Bloomfield Avenue, Donnybrook, Dublin 4 on Thursday, November 26 at 7pm.

The Belfast launch will be in St Mary's University College, 191 Falls Road, Belfast the following week on Thursday December 3 at 7pm.

The volume is edited by Dr Niall Coll and contains contributions dealing with the 16 documents of Vatican II on a range of issues affecting the Church in the modern world.

Dublin Methodist Mission celebrates sheltered housing

The residents and staff of Margaretholme and Ailt Óir independent living facilities for older people in Dublin were delighted to welcome the Rev Brian Anderson President of the Methodist Church in Ireland to their anniversary celebrations.

At Margaretholme in Sandymount Village they celebrated 50 years of sheltered housing and at Ailt an Óir it was an opportunity for them to give thanks for their 25 years in Glenageary.

At the celebrations both organisations spoke of their gratitude for the safety and community that both of the sheltered housing complexes have provided for residents past and present and their hope to continue providing these important services in the years to come.

Margaretholme opened in 1965 and was one of the first purpose built sheltered housing complexes in Ireland. Today, over 30 residents enjoy living independently in a supported, caring environment. Ailt an Óir has been provided a safe environment for residents for 25 years. Both facilities were set up by and are managed by Dublin Central Mission.

RUC officer and republican among Ardoyne altar boys reunion

A group of Catholic altar boys from Holy Cross parish in Belfast's staunchly republican Ardoyne has been reunited despite having lived on opposing sides of the Northern Ireland political divide. The reunion forms the basis of - True North: Boys of '69 - to be broadcast on Monday November 30 on BBC One NI at 10.35pm.

Irish News - Gerry Murray dressed with care and no little trepidation as he prepared to return to his boyhood parish of Holy Cross in Ardoyne for the first time since he joined the RUC aged 18.

Now a PSNI superintendent with the close protection branch, he is responsible for guarding

the British royal family when they visit Northern Ireland.

"When I told my father I was joining the police he said: 'Well, it's the lesser of two evils.' He then came out and said, well, it's better to be buried by the state than to be buried by the IRA.

"To come from where I am, to be a Catholic, I know once in, there probably was no turning back. My life dramatically changed. There I was, a civilian, 18 years of age, playing a bit of hurling - becoming a sworn officer with powers.

"I mean I just wonder, did anybody wonder where I went? Did they know where I went? Did they care where I went?"

When Gerard McGuigan found out on BBC One NI's 'True North: Boys of '69', he was far from impressed.

"Well, that was an act of treachery," he said.

"I'll just let it mellow round in my head for a while."

Mr McGuigan, who was among the first Sinn Féin members to be elected to Belfast City Council,

tells the documentary he was "involved in the republican struggle, and I'd leave it at that".

"At some stage every member of my family had been in prison," he said.

From a staunchly republican family, he recalled as a child being dragged from a doorway by riot police, beaten and "scarred" by the words shouted at him.

"I hope he can sleep easy with himself, that it doesn't come back and cause him any sleepless nights. I fear it does," he said of his former friend.

"I'll try not to judge him too harshly."

The meeting between the pair makes for uncomfortable but compulsive viewing.

They were among seven former Holy Cross altar boys tracked down by parish worker Brian McKee, who was one of their number.

True North: Boys of '69 is broadcast on Monday November 30 on BBC One NI at 10.35pm.

More at -

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2015/11/25/news/ruc-officer-and-republican-among-ardoyne-altar-boys-reunion-332417/>

Methodist Mission partner on the trail of Columbanus

Bangor's celebration of the life and work of Columbanus came to a climax on the evening of Sunday 22 November when a united congregation gathered in Bangor Abbey, the site of the earlier abbey in which Columbanus studied and worshipped for a large part of his life and from which he set out on his missionary journey to Europe.

The Saturday saw several talks about the life and work of Columbanus and also the launch of a book by mission partner the Rev Dr Barry Sloan telling of his journey hitchhiking from Bangor to Bobbio in the steps of Columbanus – an exploration of faith and history.

On Monday evening, Barry read excerpts from his book – *When the Saints go marching; on the trail of Columbanus* – in the Agape Centre, in Belfast South. His engaging presentation whetted the appetite of those present to read the work for themselves.

Barry's account of his three-week pilgrimage across Europe was first published in 2014 in

German and has since been reprinted. All the proceeds from this new English version are being donated to the work of mission in Germany where Barry serves as Theological Director of the German United Methodist Tent Mission, a Europe-wide ministry.

Pope on security threats: 'I'm more afraid of the mosquitos'

Brushing aside concerns for his security, Pope Francis arrived in Kenya on Wednesday for his first-ever visit to Africa, including to a country torn by sectarian violence.

Francis was received upon arrival at Nairobi's airport by President Uhuru Kenyatta and Nairobi governor Evans Kidero. Kenyan Cardinal Njue and a host of bishops also welcomed the pope amid singing by traditional dance groups.

Francis is also scheduled to visit Uganda and the Central African Republic, which will mark the first time a pope has flown into an active armed conflict. The Central African Republic, or CAR, has been bloodied by a two-year-old spiral of fighting between Christian and Muslims.



Pope Francis greets traditional dancers on his arrival at the airport in Nairobi

Asked while flying to Kenya in his Alitalia jetliner if he was concerned about security risks, the Pope quipped: “I’m more afraid of the mosquitoes.”

Large crowds held back by hundreds of police gathered along the road from the airport and cheered as Francis’ motorcade passed by.

After greeting Kenyatta, Francis was presented with a bouquet of flowers by a boy and a girl and traditional dancers, some dressed in Maasai regalia, and choirs at the airport sang “karibu

baba” in Swahili, lyrics which translate to “welcome father.”

Later, Francis was welcomed by an honour guard at the State House and a 21-gun salute.

The Pope wants to bring a message of peace and reconciliation to an Africa torn by extremist violence, but security concerns are so high that he might be forced to make changes to his itinerary for the final leg of the trip.

C of I chaplain at TCD appointed

The Revd Steve Brunn has been appointed Dean of Residence and Church of Ireland Chaplain of Trinity College, University of Dublin. The appointment takes effect from the beginning of the second semester, mid–January 2016.

Steve, who currently serves in the Diocese of Guildford in the Church of England, has previously worked with students as a teaching assistant at Aberdeen University and as a trained counsellor, and is now looking forward to engaging with university and student chaplaincy.

Before joining the Anglican Church, Steve was minister of a large inner city church in Aberdeen serving young families and many students. Alongside this he was a teaching assistant at Aberdeen University. He has also taught at the Centre for Youth Ministry at Cambridge focussing on subjects such as theology, art, film and identity and the church in the postmodern west. He worked at Royal Holloway University of London as a counsellor whilst serving his curacy. Steve is married to Sharon and they have three children.

The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Reverend Michael Jackson, has commented that “Steve’s arrival will be a welcome addition to the growing number of chaplains serving in the third level colleges and institutions in Dublin. I welcome his appointment and look forward to working with him in an area of ministry that is both demanding and rewarding”.

Steve said he was eagerly anticipating his move to Dublin. “I am really looking forward to getting to know Trinity, its students and staff and the wider education institutions in Dublin. I have for many years believed chaplaincy was where I was

called and feel very privileged to come to this new vocation,” he commented.

Media digest

Mothers' Union to host vigil for women suffering violence

Derry Journal

With gatherings in all 12 dioceses of the **Church of Ireland** – including locally in St Columb's Cathedral – Mothers' Union hopes this simple act of ...

<http://www.derryjournal.com/news/mothers-union-to-host-vigil-for-women-suffering-violence-1-7081950>

Limerick school belatedly accepts father's request for daughter to opt out of religion class

[BreakingNews.ie](http://www.breakingnews.ie)

Paul Drury, originally from England but living in Limerick, told RTÉ's Morning **Ireland**, Monday morning, how Castletroy College had rejected his ...

<http://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/limerick-school-belatedly-accepts-fathers-request-for-daughter-to-opt-out-of-religion-class-707072.html>

Times/BBC/Tel

HM The Queen told the Church of England that difficult times lay ahead as she opened the tenth General Synod (see above). Speaking after the service at Westminster Abbey, she said that “deep disagreements” on the

consecration of women bishops had been conquered, but there were tough decisions ahead and that different views needed to be reconciled. The five-year synod is expected to be dominated by debate over sexuality. The Archbishop of Canterbury is to host a summit in January with the heads of all the other Anglican churches.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4622890.ece>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34909978>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12014240/Queen-tells-CoE-to-learn-art-of-peacemaking-amid-splits-over-sexuality.html>

Mail/Christian Today

The Archbishop of Canterbury has endorsed the possible use of armed force in the war against religious "extremism" (see above). Addressing the General Synod, Justin Welby said, "Religious extremism is global and faces us with a generational ideological struggle. It is a war against extremism and the fundamentalism that prefers to defy God Himself rather than live in holiness with those whom we are called to love."

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3332243/Battle-against-ISIS-involve-use-armed-force-says-Archbishop-Canterbury-warning-generational-ideological-struggle.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3332243/Battle-against-ISIS-involve-use-armed-force-says-Archbishop-Canterbury-warning-generational-ideological-struggle.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3332243/Battle-against-ISIS-involve-use-armed-force-says-Archbishop-Canterbury-warning-generational-ideological-struggle.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

Tel

Continuing coverage of the decision of the UK's three largest cinema chains to ban an ad featuring the Lord's Prayer. The Bishop of Sheffield, Steven Croft writes a first person article for the paper, under the headline "Seven reasons to ban the Lord's Prayer".

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12013853/
Seven-Reasons-to-ban-the-Lords-Prayer.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12013853/Seven-Reasons-to-ban-the-Lords-Prayer.html)

BBC

The Chancellor is to set out government spending plans up to 2020 later, which will include billions of pound in cuts but also new money for house building. The Autumn Statement and Spending Review will detail £20bn of cuts to Whitehall budgets and £12bn to welfare. But Mr Osborne will pledge almost £7bn to make house building a priority, with more than 400,000 "affordable homes" to be built in England. Plans to mitigate the effect of tax credit cuts have also been promised.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-34915218>

Tel/Guard

A rare medieval panel painting survived more than 500 years, enduring the Reformation and Civil War, after a quick-thinking owner recycled it into the Ten Commandments, it has been revealed. The painting, which depicts Judas betraying Jesus, dates from around 1460. Described as "one of the rarest artworks of its type", the painting is now going on show in Cambridge after being sold by previous owner the Church of St Mary, Grafton Regis, Northamptonshire, to raise funds to mend its roof.

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/
howaboutthat/12014969/Rarest-medieval-panel-painting-
saved-by-recycling.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/12014969/Rarest-medieval-panel-painting-saved-by-recycling.html)

[http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2015/nov/24/
judas-iscariot-painting-reformation-fitzwilliam-museum](http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2015/nov/24/judas-iscariot-painting-reformation-fitzwilliam-museum)