



***Fr Tom PP Shannon with Skycourt Manager Pat Kelly, Canon Brendan O'Donoghue AP and Fr Arnold Rosney CC Shannon pictured in Skycourt Shopping Centre ahead of the 'Mercy on the Mall' initiative to mark the opening of the Year of Mercy on December 8.***

## **Irish priests to hear confessions at shopping centre**

The Irish Catholic church must battle to stay relevant in an increasingly secular society, some might say. Sixteen Irish priests are about to take the battle into their own hands, so to speak.

Irish Independent - They are planning to hear confessions at an Irish shopping centre next month.

The priests will be available to customers for confessions in Skycourt Shopping Centre in Co Clare on December 8.

Shannon's Parish Priest Fr Tom Ryan told The Irish Catholic newspaper that the initiative "was in response to Pope Francis' call to priests to go out to the market place and proclaim the Gospel".

"There are shopping centres in every large town in the country. There is no reason why they couldn't do the same," he said.

"The Year of Mercy is the opportunity to do that. I think if the initiative is of benefit to just one person the day will have been worthwhile," he said.

Skycourt Manager Pat Kelly said he was happy to support the initiative.

“I jumped on it straight away as I thought it was a great idea. It gives Christmas shoppers an opportunity to do their shopping under one roof and avail of the opportunity to meet with a priest and have a chat in a neutral environment where they are comfortable,” he told the newspaper.

## **Ecumenical Service in Belfast Cathedral on Eve of Climate Change Talks**

An ecumenical service of prayer and reflection for climate justice will be held at St Anne’s Cathedral on Sunday November 29 – the eve of UN climate change talks in Paris. The service, which begins at 1.15pm, is organised by Christian Aid and Trócaire in partnership with St Anne’s.

It will be followed by a rally starting at 2pm in Writer’s Square. These events are part of a day of action being staged by climate activists in cities around the world including Dublin, Cork, London, Edinburgh, New York, Paris, New Delhi, Sao Paulo and Rome.

The United Nations climate change talks get underway in Paris on November 30. Christian Aid describes these talks as a crucial step towards the goal of limiting global temperature rise to two degrees Celsius.

Representatives of various churches will take part in the service including the Dean of Belfast the Very Rev John Mann; Church of Ireland Bishop of Down and Dromore the Rt Rev Harold Miller; Father Colin Grant from the Roman Catholic Church; the Rev Richard Kerr, Presbyterian Church and the Rev Brian Anderson of the Methodist Church.

Representatives of the Lutheran Church along with Dr Clare Amos, World Council of Churches, who is visiting from Geneva, have also been invited.

Preacher is the Rev Canon Michael Parker. Music will be provided by Cathedral organist Ian Barber and a choir made up of singers from Christian Aid and Trócaire.

David Thomas, Christian Aid's Education and Campaigns Coordinator, said: "We wanted to gather on the eve of important international climate talks in Paris to pray for those most

affected by climate change and for the leaders who will attend the talks.

“Climate change is already affecting many of the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the world and so as Christians who want to be good news to the poor, we are united in our concern and our desire to see action.”

Dean John Mann said: “The eve of the climate change conference in Paris provides the opportunity for the churches, like every other organisation and individual concerned for the future of our planet, to reflect on the harm humanity has been inflicting and continues to inflict upon it.

“As Christians, we envisage the earth not just as our world, but more importantly as God’s creation, and so this adds a further layer of meaning for the follower of Christ to consider. In other words, it is not just self-interest and matters of justice and survival, but of the contemplation of how we relate to the natural world as stewards of the earth of which we are a part.”

The rally after the service will feature music from Beyond Skin and speakers from a range different interest groups and backgrounds, including birdwatchers, surfers and beekeepers who all have a reason to be concerned about the impact of climate change.

Northern Ireland's environment minister Mark H Durkan MLA, who will be attending the UN talks in Paris, and has been invited to join the rally to hear and to respond to the demands for action on climate change.

## **New book on Cork Pilgrimage Places, Holy Wells, Graves and Statues**

On Wednesday, 25th November a new book – *Wells, Graves and Statues* – by Dr Louise Nugent and Dr Richard Scriven, both of University College Cork, was launched in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork by the Bishop, Dr Paul Colton. *Wells, Graves and Statues* 'tells the often underappreciated story of pilgrimage in Cork city, from medieval to modern times.' A welcome was given by the Dean of Cork, the



Very Reverend Nigel Dunne who recently commissioned the new labyrinth, itself a form of spiritual pilgrimage, in the Cathedral grounds.

The large attendance at the book launch was a measure of the contemporary interest in pilgrimage and spirituality.

Launching the book Bishop Colton said: “This is a very readable book which draws deeply on our strong sense of place, not least in Cork. It is a multi-layered, interdisciplinary book which draws on the expertise of these authors – Richard and Louise – in their respective fields of geography and history, and archaeology and Celtic civilisation. More than that, there are impulses of

theology, spirituality and folklore. “Above all else, the book touches on that deep-seated nerve of the human spiritual quest on our journey through life.”

## **Dublin Churches Walk of Light prays for our broken world**

About 200 people took part in the 10th annual Dublin Council of Churches Walk of Light on Sunday night past evening (Sunday November 22). The inter church journey began in Rathmines and concluded with participants bringing their message to the heart of Dublin carrying their banner down Grafton Street which was filled with shoppers.

In a world that is increasingly broken, the people of Paris, Beirut, Syria, Iraq and other conflict torn areas were remembered throughout the journey. Refugees and homeless people were also brought to mind.

“As Christmas approaches with glitter, jingles and lights in shops and streets, we set out and declare publicly and together that Christ is the light that has come into the world. The darkness of the November evening reflects the sombre





***The Walk of Light Procession makes its way down Grafton Street.***

mood of our times with terror striking in the heart of Paris, homelessness at crisis point in our city, millions of people displaced and on refugee treks all across the globe and with climate change threatening the lives of other millions of humans as well as of thousands of animal and plant species. Coming into the light of Christ's presence allows us to overcome our despair and take courage to deal with the challenges we are facing in our city, in the world and in our personal lives," the Walk of Light organisers declared.

Gathering at the first church, Mary Immaculate, Refuge of Sinners in Rathmines, walkers were welcomed by Fr William King, Adm Rathmines

who urged participants to reflect on the plight of those who are marginalised and to pray for those who were effected by the unrest in the world.

This year's Walk of Light charity was Rathmines Women's Refuge and Lorraine Donoghue highlighted their work as the refuge prepares to celebrate 30 years in the community.

During the service there were offerings of wisdom from each tradition: Presbyterian, Anglican, Quaker, Methodist, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, Lutheran and Roman Catholic.

The next stop was St Finian's Lutheran Church on Adelaide Road which began with an Ethiopian Orthodox Prayer in Amharic. Pastor Martin Sauter observed that being on the road had many challenges as homeless people and refugees across the world could testify to.

The Revd Andrew McCroskery, Rector of St Bartholomew's, gave a reflection on the Magnificat. He said the Magnificat challenges our pride and the worldly values we get caught up in. He said it encourages us to see the world through God's eyes stripping away all the manufactured images of what it is to be wealthy,

powerful and strong. “God turns everything on its head to raise up the lowly. Our power and our wealth is through the ultimate weakness of the cross,” he said.

The Walk of Light concluded in St Teresa’s Carmelite Church on Clarendon Street where the Prior, Fr Christopher Clarke, asked people to remember those in war torn places and Christians who were persecuted for their beliefs.

The participating churches in the Walk of Light are Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church, Church of Our Lady of Refuge, Roman Catholic, Dublin Korean Church, Holy Trinity Church of Ireland, Methodist Centenary Church, St Bartholomew’s and Christ Church Leeson Park, Church of Ireland, St Catherine and St James with St Audeon, Church of Ireland, St Finian’s Lutheran Church, St Gabriel’s Parish of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, St Mary’s Roman Catholic Church, St Teresa’s Carmelite Church and the University Church St Stephen’s Green, Roman Catholic.

## **Pope names first Catholic bishop to oversee Anglican ordinariate**

Pope Francis has appointed Msgr. Steven Lopes, a Catholic priest from California, as the new bishop who will head the Anglican Ordinariate in the United States and Canada.

Bishop-elect Lopes, 40, is originally from the Archdiocese of San Francisco in the United States, and currently serves as an official for the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith.

He will be taking over for Msgr. Jeffrey N. Steenson, a former Episcopal bishop appointed by Benedict XVI in 2012 to shepherd the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter.

The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter is a special diocese-like structure that allows entire Anglican communities to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church while retaining certain elements of the liturgy and other customs.

Ordinariates are similar to dioceses but typically national in scope. Pope Benedict authorized the creation of ordinariates for Anglican communities seeking to enter the Catholic Church in his 2009 apostolic constitution, “*Anglicanorum coetibus*.”



***Bishop-elect Msgr. Steven Lopes greets Pope Francis during a Wednesday general audience.***

Based in Houston, Texas, the Ordinariate has more than 40 Roman Catholic parishes and communities across the United States and Canada.

A married Anglican priest can be ordained a Catholic priest but not a bishop. Instead, as in the case of Msgr. Steenson, they become an “ordinary,” who carries all the authority of a bishop except that of being able to ordain priests.

Msgr. Lopes' appointment, then, marks the first time a Roman Catholic bishop has been named for any of the worlds' three Personal Ordinariates: Our Lady of Walsingham in the United Kingdom; the Chair of Saint Peter in the United States and Canada; and Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Australia

The announcement that bishop-elect Lopes will be taking over for the retiring Msgr. Steenson came in a Nov. 24 communique from the Vatican.

In a press release shortly after the announcement, Msgr. Steenson said that he had asked the Vatican last year that a bishop be appointed to replace him in leading the Ordinate.

"I welcome this news with all my heart, for the Ordinate has now progressed to the point where a bishop is much needed for our life and mission," he said. "A bishop will help to give the Ordinate the stability and permanence necessary to fulfil its mission to be a work of Catholic unity, whose roots are to be found in the great texts of the Second Vatican Council."

## Global Anglican prayer focused on Jerusalem

Anglicans and other Christians around the world will be praying for the peace of Jerusalem this weekend, using a special litany for peace in the Holy Land.

The litany was [published earlier this month](#) by the Diocese of Jerusalem with an appeal by the Archbishop of Jerusalem, the Rt Revd Suheil Dawani, for Anglicans and other Christians to use it on Advent Sunday (29 November) and Christmas Eve.

That call to prayer is repeated in a Christmas Letter from Archbishop Suheil.

“The message of the Prince of Peace is dear to us, and so important for us to meditate and reflect on throughout our earthly pilgrimage,” he writes. “In this Diocese, I have called all to reflect on their ministries, recognizing that situations are not easy:

“In Syria people face extraordinary difficulties. We have had to close our church – I hope temporarily – in Damascus. In Jordan the



church's understanding of hospitality – as throughout Europe and the world – is challenged in welcoming the refugee: to welcome the stranger is to welcome Christ in our midst (Matt. 25:35).

“In Lebanon we are challenged again to respond with compassion in the wake of horrific violence in November. And in Palestine and Israel, we are called daily to seek and pray for peace between Palestinian and Israeli.

“Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ, when we ready ourselves for His presence revealed in the world. The Prince of Peace teaches us to serve and shows us that



through the Holy Spirit we must not give up hope when things seem hopeless; that in the face of violence we must not be tempted to hate, but that we must have compassion.

“The Prince of Peace shows us what healing is, between neighbours and between communities. I pray daily for those who grieve, that the Holy Spirit, the comforter (John 14.26), may grant them solace and healing in their hearts.”

He continues: “As part of our discipline of prayer here in Jerusalem, we have invited our friends, far and near, to use at the beginning of Advent and on Christmas Eve a special litany [which] was written as the troubles here in Jerusalem escalated.”

Archbishop Suheil said that the Litany could also be adapted for use in “other places where there is conflict, pain and suffering.”

Archbishop Mouneer Anis, Primate of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, welcomed the Litany and “the opportunity to call Christians to pray for peace this advent.”

## **Media digest**

## The first female priest ordained in **Ireland** discusses the influence of women priests in the Anglican ...

Irish Examiner

I had been in ministry since 1978 and certainly within the **Church** of ... page **news** and media across Britain and **Ireland** covered the event extensively.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/features/the-first-female-priest-ordained-in-ireland-discusses-the-influence-of-women-priests-in-the-anglican-ministry-367004.html>

## **Irish** priest appeals for mother of newborn baby found in **church** manger to come forward

Irish Independent

Father Christopher Ryan Heanue was ordained five months ago and has already made a trip to **Ireland** to say Mass in his mother and father's ...

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/americas/irish-priest-appeals-for-mother-of-newborn-baby-found-in-church-manger-to-come-forward-34232828.html>

## **Times/Guard**

Reports that the General Synod has effectively backed military intervention in Syria to establish safe routes for refugees. It voted in favour of a motion that the Archbishop of Canterbury said could commit the church to supporting the use of armed force. Justin Welby said that if the motion passed the “implications are enormous”, adding that he supported the motion.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4624075.ece>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/25/church-of-england-syria-archbishop-of-canterbury-refugees>

### **BBC/Times/Guard**

The Education Secretary made "an error of law" in leaving "non-religious world views" out of the new religious studies GCSE, the High Court has ruled. Three families argued Nicky Morgan had taken a "skewed" approach to RS when she had announced changes in February. Mr Justice Warby ruled there had been "a breach of the duty" to ensure the curriculum reflected the pluralistic nature of the UK.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-34921857>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4623795.ece>

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/nov/25/education-secretary-made-error-of-law-on-new-religious-studies-gcse-high-court>

### **Tel**

Report from Synod that rural clergy warned they are "close to drowning" under the pressure of maintaining multiple medieval buildings with dwindling congregations as the CofE considers plans to scale back its parish network. But the bishop overseeing a review into the future of the 16,000 Anglican places of worship warned against "Dr Beeching-type cuts" with thousands of little-used parish churches effectively closing. The Bishop of Worcester, John Inge, insisted that such a mass closure would send out a signal that the Church and Christianity itself had "had their day in this country".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12017188/Rural-vicars-drowning-amid-battle-to-keep-empty-churches-open.html>

## **American Magazine/Fortune/Jamaica Observer/The Straits Times**

International coverage of the Just Pray ad being banned by the leading three cinema chains in the UK.

<http://americamagazine.org/content/dispatches/lead-us-not-cinema-near-you>

<http://fortune.com/2015/11/24/religious-ad-rejected/>

<http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Lord-s-Prayer-Christmas-ad-banned-in-UK-cinemas>

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/prayer-ad-in-uk-cinemas-firms-ban-sparks-debate>

## **Times/Ind/Tel**

Responding to a written question in General Synod regarding wearing Mitres, the Bishop of Willesden, Pete Broadbent said it is “entirely a matter of personal discretion”. However, Bishop Pete said that when addressing African and Asian dominated congregations in particularly his fellow bishops may wish to ‘dress up’.

“We’ve exported all the regalia to them. That’s the culture they have grown up with and they would be very surprised not to see a bishop dressed up to the nines and wearing a mitre.”

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4623902.ece>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/church-of-england-decides-bishops-dont-need-to-wear-mitres-a6749236.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12016602/Ditch-the-mitre-Id-look-underdressed-in-inner-city-says-bishop.html>

## **C of E General Synod**

General Synod backs work to help vulnerable refugees

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/11/general-synod-backs-work-to-help-vulnerable-refugees.aspx>

Chancellor announces continued support for listed churches

<https://churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/11/chancellor-announces-continued-support-for-listed-churches.aspx>

General Synod November 2015 - Wednesday AM

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/11/general-synod-november-2015-wednesday-am.aspx>

General Synod November 2015 - Wednesday PM

<https://churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/11/general-synod-november-2015-wednesday-pm.aspx>

Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, asked in the House of Lords what assessment the Government has made of the freedom of religious and non-religious organisations to express their beliefs in the public sphere following the ban on the Lord's Prayer cinema advert. In her response, Communities and Local Government Minister Baroness Williams of Trafford says the Government does not agree with the ban and urges a re-think of the decision. The response sparks a series of contributions from peers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/151125-0001.htm#15112550000991>

To see a video clip <http://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/512823a6-5942-4ecd-a925-236d7b5d2c09?in=15:28:56&out=15:37:10>

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