



CNI

Dublin ecumenical service will mark Jerusalem link

The Archbishop of Jerusalem, the Most Revd Suheil Dawani, his wife, Shafeeqa and his Chaplain, Canon David Longe, will visit Dublin & Glendalough diocese from December 1 to 7.

One 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.

The programme has been put together by the Diocesan Council for Mission and all are very welcome to attend. For more details [click here](#).

Belfast Cathedral supports Foodbank during Advent

St Anne's Cathedral began a collection of food items for the North Belfast Foodbank yesterday on Advent Sunday, November 27.

The collection will continue throughout the Advent period. All foodstuffs donated will be used to ensure families in need have enough to eat during this festive season.

The initiative is being co-ordinated by Dean's Vicar, the Rev Canon Mark Niblock.

"This time of year can be a challenging one for those who are struggling with debt and financial difficulties," Mark said. "Unprecedented numbers of local people are finding themselves having to seek assistance for the basic essentials in order to feed themselves and family members.

"Since 2013 the North Belfast Foodbank (affiliated to the Trussell Trust) has been a source of assistance to those facing such

frightening circumstances by providing Emergency Three Day Food Parcels and signposting them to other agencies that can help them.

“They have worked with nutritionists to ensure food parcels contain sufficient nutrition for at least three days’ worth of healthy, balanced meals for individuals and families.”

Appealing to the parish family of St Anne’s to support the work of the North Belfast Foodbank, Mark added: “After all, at this time of year we think a lot about the particular plight of one poor family...”

Guidelines for contributing:

- When getting your weekly shopping, add a few extra items in. You don’t have to make up a food parcel yourself, just contribute towards it!
- Bring them with you on Sunday and deposit them in the Rations Receptacle at the back of the Cathedral. These will be taken to the local food collection points and made ready for distribution.
- Food contributions must be dried, tinned or jarred!

History of Ashton School, Cork, to be launched



Dr Alicia St Leger, author of 'A History of Ashton School' and school principal, Adrian Landen, at the Bishop's Palace, Cork, presenting the first copy of the book to school co-patron and former chairperson of the Board, Dr Paul Colton.

On Friday next, 2nd December, A History of Ashton School, Cork written by Dr Alicia StLeger,

will be launched. The book launch is open to the public and will take place at 7.30 p.m. at Ashton School. Anyone associated with the school is especially invited to attend.

The history of the school was commissioned a number of years ago, on foot of an idea put forward by the then chairperson of the Board of Management and school co-patron, Dr Paul Colton. With this in mind, school principal, Adrian Landen, together with Dr StLeger called to Bishop Colton on Friday, 25th November to present him with the very first copy of the new history of the school. Dr Colton said: 'It really is a quality book: beautifully written, handsomely printed, a fascinating read, and full of photographs.'

'Requiem 1916 – Marbhna' performed at Knock

The recently refurbished Basilica at Knock Shrine provided the beautiful location for a solemn expression of commemoration earlier this month with the performance of 'Requiem 1916 – Marbhna', a Mass composed by Ódhrán Ó Casaide.



Sibéal Ní Chasaide sings the ‘Kyrie’.

The Mass was first performed in City Hall, Dublin last January, but the occasion at Knock was the first at which the musical suite was performed in the setting of a Mass.

Marbhna’ features a wide range of musical styles, with solo sean nós and classical voice,

chamber choir and orchestra, and traditional and early musical instruments. The blend of Irish and classical styles of music reflects the two musical traditions of Ireland at the time of the 1916 Rising.

Musicians included the singers Sibéal Ní Chasaide, Anne Marie Gibbons and Owen Gilhooly, the combined choirs of Knock and surrounding areas, and an orchestra from DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama.

Úna Nolan, director of sacred music at Knock, commented that “Sibéal’s sean nós rendering of the ‘Kyrie’ was beautifully countered by the classical voices of mezzo soprano, Anne Marie Gibbons, and tenor, Owen Gilhooly.” She described as “wonderful” Owen Gilhooly’s portrayal of the ‘Dies Irae’. The ‘Dies Irae’ from ‘Marbhna’ is the first to have been composed for the Irish language.

The Chief Celebrant at the Mass was Bishop Brendan Kelly, Bishop of Achonry. He was welcomed, along with the Papal Nuncio, Charles Brown, by Fr Richard Gibbons, Rector of Knock Shrine. Fr Gibbons also gave a special welcome to two women who were born in 1916 – Ódhrán

Ó Casaide's mother, Noreen, and local woman, Eileen O'Connell.

Speaking at the start of the Mass, Bishop Kelly told those gathered that they came together to “salute, to pray for and to remember the men and women of 1916” and all of our dead at the end of the great Jubilee Year of Mercy and during the month of November. He said that this was a time when all Christians “look death in the face and know that it shall have no dominion, for we are an Easter people, a risen people, who sing and make music together, as we remember the great things done for us in Jesus Christ our Lord.”

During the homily, Fr Gibbons spoke about how human beings have different attitudes towards death, and that these attitudes are sometimes revealed in their epitaphs. He referred to how we try to come to an understanding of “what the end of life is” and where we go after this life, and said that what life after death will be remains “clouded in great mystery.”

Fr Gibbons commented that Christians have as many questions about life after death as anyone else. We have, however, a context for these questions, and this context is the Resurrection,

which he described as “the key that unlocks the door”.

Perpetrators Prayed for at Mothers' Union Service



The perpetrators of gender abuse were among those prayed for at a vigil in St Columb's Cathedral which was organised by members of the Mothers' Union in Derry and Raphoe.

The two-hour vigil was part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign. It was one of around a dozen such events held in

Church of Ireland churches throughout Ireland today to demand an end to violence against women and girls.

Five female clergy from Derry and Raphoe were among those who took part in the vigil in Londonderry. It was organised by Mothers' Union's local Faith and Policy Coordinator Jacqui Armstrong and overseen by the Diocesan President, Mary Good.

Welcome teams were on hand to present purple and yellow ribbons to people arriving in the Cathedral. Prayer stations were set up at various points throughout the church.

Those present were asked to pray for victims of gender violence at home and abroad; for those in positions of authority who were working to end it; and for the perpetrators who were responsible for doing it.

Prayers were said, too, for Northern Ireland's Justice Minister, Claire Sudden - who is campaigning for gender justice - and for members of the PSNI and the Garda Síochána who are fighting against people trafficking.

Canon George Irwin of Christian Aid talked about the work his organisation was doing with partners in Egypt, South Africa, Iraq, Afghanistan and Kenya to try and end gender violence. Tim Houston of Christian Action Research & Education (CARE) talked about the extent of gender abuse in Northern Ireland and the Republic. A presentation of goods was made to representatives of Letterkenny Women's Refuge and Foyle Women's Aid.

Archbishop of Canterbury welcomes South Sudan Council of Churches to Lambeth Palace

Last Friday the Archbishop of Canterbury welcomed an ecumenical delegation of the South Sudan Council of Churches, following their recent visit to Pope Francis in Rome.

The delegation briefed the Archbishop of Canterbury on the situation in South Sudan and what the Church continues to do, and the outcome of their recent visit to the Holy Father. As they did with their visit to the Vatican, the delegation invited the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Holy Father to do all in their power for the promotion of peace and reconciliation.



***The Archbishop met and prayed with the
ecumenical delegation of the South Sudan
Council of Churches at Lambeth Palace***

Present in the meeting was Reverend Philip Majcher of the Church of Scotland, which has strong ties with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and Sudan.

Archbishop Justin Welby welcomed the delegation and expressed his deep concern for the situation. He informed the delegation of his continued effort in prayer and support through agencies like the Anglican Alliance towards ameliorating the situation.

He emphasized that the peace, reconciliation and healing of South Sudan and its people remain a top priority for him and he promised to do all in his power, through the Grace of God, to support the efforts of the Church, and other people of good will.

News briefs

+++ New lay readers for Cashel, Ferns and Ossory. - This past weekend in **St Laserian's cathedral, Old Leighlin**, the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory presided at the Advent Eucharist which will also incorporate the commissioning of new lay readers for Cashel, Ferns and Ossory. The new Readers have recently completed the Certificate in Christian Studies which is run in conjunction with St Patrick's College, Maynooth, under the direction of the Very Revd Tom Gordon, Diocesan Director of Education. The course is one of two training programmes recognised by the House of Bishops. This year's graduates include participants from the dioceses of Limerick, Cork and Meath and Kildare in addition to those of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory. This week also sees the commencement of the new intake for the fourth cycle of the programme. The awards on Advent Sunday will be conferred

by the Revd Dr Michael Shorthall, the Director of Affiliated Programmes at St Patrick's College.

+++ Killala installations - In St Patrick's cathedral, Killala, yesterday (Sunday) in the context of the Diocesan Advent Carol Service the Revd Andrea Willis and the Revd Stan Evans were installed as canons and the Revd Jennifer McWhirter was introduced as Priest-in-Charge of the Killala union of parishes.

+++ Publication on Communion and community - On Tuesday evening in the RCB Library the seventh booklet in the Braemor Studies series will be launched by the Bishop of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert. *Let Us Celebrate the Feast: Holy Communion and Building the Community* has been written by the Revd Abigail Sines who is Dean's Vicar in Christ Church cathedral, Dublin. The Braemor Studies series is published by Church of Ireland Publishing (www.cip.ireland.anglican.org) in association with the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

+++ Methodist voice on children and migration - From 29th-30th November 2016, Dr. Fergus O'Ferrall, Lay Leader of the Methodist Church in Ireland will be in Brussels at the

invitation of the European Commission to participate in Forum considering the important topic of "Children and Migration. The urgency generated by this topic has come centre stage with the demolition of "The Jungle" camp at Calais. Dr. O'Ferrall who has written and spoken on this issue says " My focus at the Forum will be on the "moral responsibility" *we have to children who are unaccompanied in the European Community.* The Methodist Lay Leader is also of the opinion that there is a need to organise a new Government Agency to address what will be a long term challenge.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Former Irish president wants to use canon law to change the Church

Catholic Culture

Former Irish President Mary McAleese says that she wants to change the structure of the Catholic Church, because the hierarchy is "not serving its

<<https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm%3Fstoryid%3D30034&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoTNTg0NjQwNDE3NTgwODM4MjU1MTIaMTFmMTJiNjc5ZDQ5NGZiNjpb206Z>

[W46VVM&usg=AFQjCNEyh4q92T4Hl1tMDtDa6N5xZvwwaA>](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/retired-solicitor-to-set-up-lgbt-support-group-in-presbyterian-church-1.2881151)

Retired solicitor to set up LGBT support group in Presbyterian church

Irish Times

Retired solicitor to set up LGBT support group in Presbyterian church ... A

former Presbyterian himself, he told The Irish Times that he was “exploring

<https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/retired-solicitor-to-set-up-lgbt-support-group-in-presbyterian-church-1.2881151>

Dromore Church of Ireland Dean faces new challenges

Newsletter

Dean Wilson spent most of his spiritually formative years in the Mullavilly **parish** near Tandragee in Co Armagh.

After 17 years in the civil service, ...

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/lifestyle/dromore-church-of-ireland-dean-faces-new-challenges-1-7699005>

Former nun killed in Glenshane crash was 'the kindest of people'

Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/11/25/news/former-nun-killed-in-glenshane-crash-was-the-kindest-of-people--800998/>

Church of Ireland hit by child abuse allegations

Blasting News

The #Church of Ireland, the Irish branch of the Anglican Communion, has been ... The news comes at a time when the church has appointed a child ...

<<https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://uk.blastingnews.com/europe/2016/11/church-of-ireland-hit-by-child-abuse-allegations-001272959.html>

Dungourney, County Cork: grave musings in an old Irish churchyard

The Australian

To get to the “old” church and graveyard of Dungourney, in County Cork, Ireland, was reminiscent of Robert Frost's “the road ... less travelled by”.

<<https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/life/travel/dungourney-county-cork-grave-musings-in-an-old-irish-churchyard/news-story/>

New Statesman

Diary by the Archbishop of Canterbury including reflections on his visit, last weekend, to Pakistan.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/uk/2016/11/travelling-pakistan-fighting-face-blindness-and-getting-cross-myself>

S Times (mag)

Wide-ranging interview with Theresa May with ref to her growing up as the only child of an Oxfordshire clergyman and her Christian faith. She also restates her commitment to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, which she set up when Home Secretary.
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-interview-theresa-may-hmpg0m2lg>

Mail/S Times

News items that the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is to publish a report next week criticising organisations that victimise Christians for fear of offending others. Article notes the report is particularly critical of last year's ban by cinema chains on the one-minute Lord's Prayer advert from the Church of England. *Mail* quotes Lord Carey and the Christian Institute saying the report does not go far enough.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3974744/Hallelujah-Equalities-watchdog-says-persecution-Christians-end-blasts-Lord-s-Prayer-film-ban.html#ixzz4RC99ZYrf>
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bosses-told-to-bring-back-christmas-hmf3mk2d9>

Mail

Report that Britain's biggest cinema chain is to show films on Christmas Day. Article notes the Odeon group has scheduled more than 120 screenings in 20 of its cinemas on Sunday, December 25 – some of which will clash with services. Includes comment from General Synod member Andrea Williams.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3974776/Cinema-bosses-provoke-anger-Church-leaders-announcing-open-Christmas-Day.html#ixzz4RCHeOwk4>

Mail (video)

Former vicar of Holy Trinity Dalston and All Saints Haggerston Rose Hudson-Wilkin, gives an insight into Christmas mass and what makes it special for her.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/video/news/video-1365519/It-really-special-London-vicar-gives-insight-Christmas-mass.html>

Times (Sat)

Report that one of London's oldest churches, St Michael's, Cornhill, is on the verge of bankruptcy noting that Stephen Platten, the rector and former Bishop of Wakefield, has called an emergency meeting. Report also takes a wider

look at church growth in London and quotes Archdeacon of London, Luke Miller.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bankrupt-church-in-square-mile-starts-praying-for-a-miracle-p55ffj5m3>

Times (Sat)

Matt Bird, founder of the Cinnamon network charity, reflects on Advent saying it is the season for repairing damaged friendships.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/this-is-the-season-for-repairing-damaged-friendships-dhlt6rjjq>