



**Image of the day -
Mothers' Union continues 16 Days of Activism
campaign**

News Reports

Mothers' Union continues 16 Days of Activism campaign against gender-based violence and sexual abuse



Members of Derry and Raphoe Mothers' Union heard graphic accounts illustrating the extent and impact of domestic abuse when they attended a special 'Global Day Service' in St Columb's Cathedral on Saturday afternoon. The service was held in support of the organisation's 'No more 1-in-3' campaign, which this

November 29, 2021

year has focused on gender-based violence and sexual abuse.

Saturday's service was led by the Diocesan MU's outgoing chaplain, Rev Canon Katie McAteer, who was assisted by Rev Lindsey Farrell and Rev Liz Fitzgerald. They were supported by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, who addressed the congregation, and the Dean of Derry, Very Rev Raymond Stewart, who symbolically blessed a basket of items for the domestic abuse services.

Canon McAteer said those gathered in the Cathedral were raising their voices "on behalf of the voiceless to say, 'No more "1-in-3"'. We cry out to our loving, righteous God for an end to the devastating statistic that one in three women globally will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime."

There was a poignant demonstration of solidarity with victims during a three-minute silence which was observed



November 29,2021

simultaneously in many countries. The local women sat in socially-distanced groups of three, in which the middle women covered their heads with purple scarves which were removed as the silence ended, signifying their wish for an end to the '1-in-3'.

Among those present at Saturday's service were the Queen's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Londonderry, Dr Angela Garvey, and the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Alderman Graham Warke. The service was addressed by women from three local organisations which help domestic abuse victims: Adel Fox from Omagh Women's Aid; Mary McKenna from Donegal Domestic Violence Services; and Marie Brown, from Foyle Women's Aid.

Ms Fox talked about the impact the pandemic had had on victims, and the challenges it had posed for groups like hers which sought to help victims. She said that every 17 minutes on average, the PSNI received a phone call from someone needing help because of domestic violence.

Mary McKenna revealed that in the last year, the Donegal Domestic Violence Service had worked with women from Poland, Slovakia, Moldova, Morocco, Afghanistan, Venezuela, India, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, Romania, Brazil, Egypt, Sudan and Syria. "The issues all of these women will tell us about is the cultural acceptance of abuse towards women in their community." She said the biggest fear they had was being threatened with being returned to their country of origin without their children. "For any woman, the thought of losing their children is horrific

November 29, 2021

and this is what keeps many of these women where they are.”

Marie Brown, of Foyle Women’s Aid, revealed that year on year in Northern Ireland, the incidence of domestic violence had increased, and was now at “epidemic levels”. Seventy percent of the victims were female, she said, and during lockdown the number of women Foyle Women’s Aid dealt with rose by thirty per cent. Ms Brown said that eight women had lost their lives [to domestic violence] during lockdown,



November 29,2021

and another two had died since lockdown ended, “so the situation is pretty stark”.

Bishop Andrew thanked Mothers’ Union for organising Saturday’s service. “I sat at my seat in the Cathedral and whenever we turned for the three minutes of silence, and to look down the Cathedral and to see those heads covered, I found it deeply moving but also deeply distressing, distressing to see the proportion – so many people – affected by this terrible evil, and it is an evil.”

The Bishop thanked the Mothers’ Union and its Diocesan President Jacqui Armstrong for raising awareness of domestic violence, but he said that all of us – male and female – needed to “own this” and share this message. “As a man,” he said, “we must carry this message beyond these walls, that we must be the people who call out domestic violence, who challenge domestic violence, who raise awareness of domestic violence.” He said the message shouldn’t be left solely in the hands of women; men also had to be “the messengers of the wilderness and the pain that so many live with because of gender-based violence”.

MU’s Diocesan President, Ms Armstrong, said more had to be done to get to the root cause of gender-based violence. “We as a society, and it’s not just Church it’s all our communities – between our schools, the GAA, hockey clubs, Girls Brigade, Girl Guides, Boy Scouts – all of us need to work together in the North and South of Ireland, with government help, to get rid of the myths about domestic abuse and get down to the grass roots and create the healthy relationships that Adel and Mary and Marie have been talking about.”

November 29,2021



Silence hides violence.

A MU Global Day of Action service was held in St Canice's Cathedral. At 1.03 there was a 3 minutes silence for the 1 in 3 women worldwide who will be affected by violence within relationships at some stage in their life. Donations to Women's Refuges are being gratefully accepted by parish MU members for your local Refuge in the diocese. Lesley Bayley is the Diocesan President
@@@

November 29,2021

The lonely can find an ‘ally’ in St. Joseph, pope says at audience

As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, St. Joseph’s reassuring presence is an example for Christians who are called to care for the lonely and those who struggle in their lives, Pope Francis said.

In a society where relationships are constantly in flux, St. Joseph’s life and example give “a clear indication of the importance of human bonds,” the pope said during his weekly general audience.

“Joseph, with his life, seems to want to tell us that we are always called to feel that we are the guardians of our brothers and sisters, the custodians of those placed close to us, of those whom the Lord entrusts to us through the circumstances of life,” he said.

Recalling St. Matthew’s compilation of Jesus’ genealogy, the pope said that although St. Joseph is not Jesus’ biological father, he is still “the father of Jesus” and “is in fact a central element in the history of salvation.”

“Everyone can find in St. Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, the man of daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of difficulty,” the pope said. “He reminds us that all those who are seemingly hidden or in the ‘second row’ have unparalleled agency in the history of salvation.”



While St. Luke described St. Joseph as the “guardian of Jesus and Mary,” the pope said his protection extends to the whole church and is a reminder for Christians “that our lives are made up of bonds that precede and accompany us.”

Before concluding his talk, Pope Francis led those present in praying that those who “lack the strength and courage to go on” in their lives may find in St. Joseph “an ally, a friend and a support.”

“St. Joseph, you who guarded the bond with Mary and Jesus, help us to care for the relationships in our lives,” the pope prayed. “May no one experience the sense of abandonment that comes from loneliness.”

November 29,2021

Peter Corry in Christmas at the Cathedral returns this December



An international line-up of talent will join Ireland's celebrated singer and producer, Peter Corry, bringing back the gift of music this Christmas at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

The sell-out show, which has now released a third event on Friday 17th of December, after the first two sold out in record time, promises to bring back Christmas to its former glory at this special time of year by surrounding the audience in all the charm and magic of the season.

Appearing on stage with Peter will be music phenomenon and lead clarinettist of the Ulster Orchestra, Francesco Paola Scola; as well as the distinguished American singer,

November 29,2021



actress and playwright, Abbe Tanenbaum, to create a magical evening of festive celebration.

What's more, the trio will be joined by some of Northern Ireland's finest performers: accomplished singer and musician, Matthew Campbell; skilled multi-instrumentalist, Oisín McCann, Instrumental composer, writer and musician, Gary Hunt and the enchanting music ensemble, Adoro.

Directed under the talents of musical maestro, Ashley Fulton, whose passion and talent are renowned in the industry these exceptional performers will create an enchanted evening filled with festive songs and beautiful music.

Peter Corry explains the significance of the event's return:

November 29,2021

“Christmas at the Cathedral is one of the highlights of my year and to be able to bring it back after the pandemic has been extremely important to me. St Anne’s Cathedral is a



 St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church

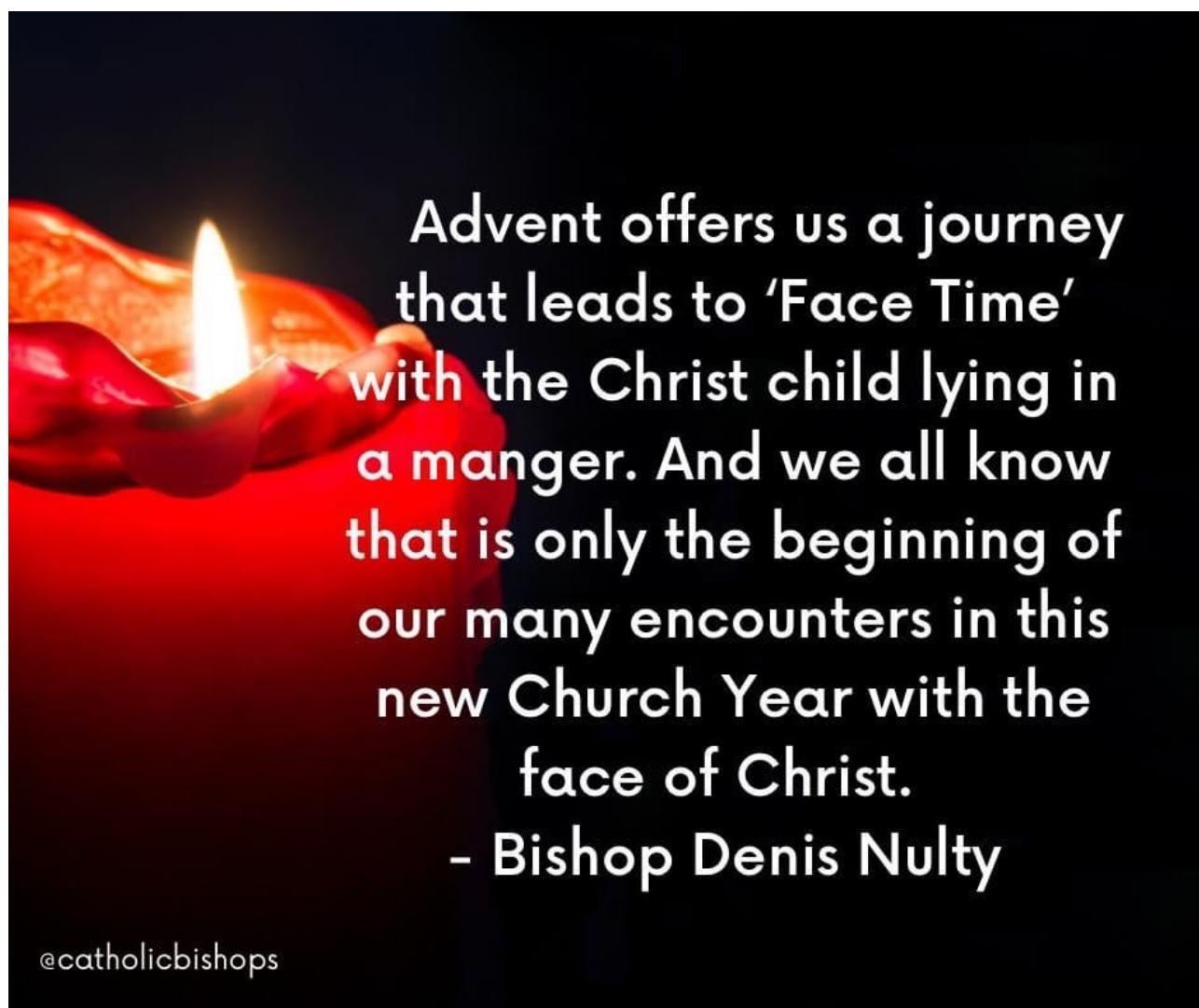
Organ Recital
by Edwin Gray on The Elgar Organ
Thursday 2nd December 2021
at 7.30pm
Admission: Free
with donations to the Organ Rebuilding Fund

November 29,2021

majestic location which really helps to bring to life the true meaning of Christmas – a time for hope, love and happiness and I am so looking forward to making 2021 extra special!

“This year I have decided to invite local artists to share the stage. While some of the performers have lived here their entire lives, others have decided to make Northern Ireland their home. What a better way to celebrate Christmas in Northern Ireland, than to come together and enjoy festive music from the diverse array of talent which surrounds us here!”

Guest performer, Francesco Paola Scola says;



November 29,2021

It is so exciting to be a part of this prestigious event and to be able to perform in such a beautiful venue. St Anne's Cathedral has an enchanting atmosphere which will be perfect for celebrating the festive season together again, through the art of music."

Fellow special guest, Abbe Tanenbaum, notes the significance of the event:

"After this isolating time, I'm really looking forward to coming together and celebrating the possibilities the new year brings. I can't think of a better way to reconnect than through music in such a beautiful space."

Christmas at the Cathedral remains a socially distanced event.

÷ Tickets are now on sale for the additional night of Christmas at the Cathedral on Friday, December 17, at 7.30pm. To book go to petercorryproductions.com/event/christmas-at-the-cathedral/.

People and places

Finding Hope in Advent 2021 – St Patrick's Greystones and the Light House

The first of Dublin & Glendalough's videos for Advent 2021 explores the link that has grown between St Patrick's Parish and School in Greystones and the Light House which supports homeless people. It is available to watch below.

November 29,2021

The Light House on Pearse Street in Dublin 2 is run by Dublin Christian Mission.

During the early days of lockdown in 2020 principal of St Patrick's National School, Rachel Harper, began volunteering in the Light House. She had previously volunteered with Tiglin's No Bucks Café. This bus used to travel into the city centre to serve hot meals to homeless people and when that could no longer operate it moved its services to the Light House.

Over time the school community and parishioners along with the wider community in Greystones began to support the project leaving donations of food and in the run up to Christmas last year serving up more than 300 Christmas dinners. Rachel's work with the Light House has been recognised with a Local Hero award from Greystones Municipal District, part of the County Wicklow Volunteer Awards.



November 29,2021

Rachel Harper and Canon David Mungavin tell how reaching out to support others has been a lightbulb moment for the parish and school.

See the school website www.stpns.ie in December for information on how to support their work for the Light House this Christmas. For more information on the Light House see www.dcmlive.ie/the-light-house



Healing Service at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

The service of Healing organised by the Church's Ministry of Healing on Friday next, 3rd December will be led by Revd

November 29,2021

Nigel Kirkpatrick, Rector of Kilroot and Templecorran Parish. It will be held in the hall of St Anne's Cathedral (for the convenience of cleansing). So, please enter by the car park on the Talbot St side. Full anti-Covid measures will be observed.

Come for yourself, for someone who is in difficulty, or simply come for worship and thanksgiving if you are in town. The Ministry of Healing also want to reach out to people who work in the area.

Happy 90th Birthday Canon Murray



Holy Family Parish - "On this the eve of Canon Murray's 90th Birthday, we thank God for his many years of service to our Parish community. His wit and wisdom continue to

November 29,2021

capture the hearts of our parishioners, young and old. We pray for his continued good health. Amen”

Commissioning of Lay Local Minister



Lay Local Minister Hilary Dring with the Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton, and the Rector of Carrigaline Union, Canon Elaine Murray

On Saturday, 13th November, Hilary Dring was commissioned by Bishop Paul Colton for the work of a Lay Local Minister in the area of pastoral care.

Hilary said:

It was a very special occasion for me to be commissioned by the Bishop. It was the culmination of a lot of work,

November 29, 2021

training and personal development, as well as a recognition by the diocese of the role I play as part of the pastoral care team at St Luke's Home. I am delighted to be part of the Diocesan ministry team and feel very privileged to be able to serve the residents, their families and the staff at St Luke's Home each week. A big thank you to Canon Elaine Murray for suggesting Clinical Pastoral Education to me in the first place. It has turned out to be a wonderful gift at this stage of my life.



THURSDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2021 AT 19:00

Carol Service

St. Matthews, Church of Ireland,...

November 29,2021

NW Belfast Scout District Carol Service

All Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Leaders and Parents have been invited to the Annual North West Belfast District Carol Service, this year being hosted by the 20th Group, in St.Matthew's Parish Church, Woodvale Road, at 7.00PM on Thursday 16th December.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books

Advent Sunday from St John's Cambridge



The annual service for Advent Sunday from St John's College Cambridge is always worth a listen.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000xlz5>

November 29,2021

Poem for today

Father and Son

by Frederick Robert Higgins

Only last week, walking the hushed fields
Of our most lovely Meath, now thinned by November,
I came to where the road from Laracor leads
To the Boyne river-that seems more lake than river,
Stretched in uneasy light and stript of reeds.

And walking longside an old weir
Of my people's, where nothing stirs-only the shadowed
Leaden flight of a heron up the lean air-
I went unmanly with grief, knowing how my father,
Happy though captive in years, walked last with me there.

Yes, happy in Meath with me for a day
He walked, taking stock of herds hid in their own breathing;
And naming colts, gusty as wind, once steered by his hand,
Lightnings winked in the eyes that were half shy in greeting
Old friends-the wild blades, when he gallivanted the land.

For that proud, wayward man now my heart breaks-
Breaks for that man whose mind was a secret eyrie,
Whose kind hand was sole signet of his race,
Who curbed me, scorned my green ways, yet increasingly
loved me
Till Death drew its grey blind down his face.

And yet I am pleased that even my reckless ways
Are living shades of his rich calms and passions-

November 29,2021

Witnesses for him and for those faint namesakes
With whom now he is one, under yew branches,
Yes, one in a graven silence no bird breaks.

+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org

