



***Baroness Nuala O'Loan and her husband Councillor Declan O'Loan were among the guests at the service. They are pictured with Canon Stuart Lloyd and his wife Jane.***

## **The wee man on the Ballymena bike retires**

St Patrick's Parish Church, Ballymena, was packed on Sunday November 1 for the Rev

Canon Stuart Lloyd's final service as rector before his retirement.

It was in January 1989 that Stuart arrived in Ballymena for his institution as the rector of the Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug, conducted by the then Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Samuel Poyntz.

Stuart's wife Jane and three daughters, Lucy, Sophie and Sarah, settled into parish life very quickly too. Life in Ballymena began with the girls starting school and the rector getting out and about meeting his parishioners. Jane also took on various roles within the parish and it wasn't long before the family was well known to all the parishioners.

The Canon soon became known 'as the wee man on the bike' for it was by bike he would ride around the town visiting his flock. Around the parish he was known as a workaholic for no matter what the task he was the first to lend a hand.

He enjoyed his walks up Slemish and before going on one of his trips to Nepal he climbed Slemish 50 times raising money to take with him. His sermons were always well thought out and

visiting the sick and elderly took up a lot of his time along with all the committee posts he held. As everyone who attended a funeral knows his eulogy was sensitive and always from the heart.

So, it was no surprise that Sunday saw the huge turnout for his last service of Morning Prayer with the choir and the music group leading the people singing. Following the service almost all the congregation walked over to the hall for a light lunch and the presentation of gifts and a bit of fun at the rector's expense.

Our rector liked to take part in a sketch for the Harvest Supper each year, so naturally this one had to be about Ted and Dougal. As always the catering team worked wonders with the catering.

The following morning he was as usual spotted on the bike waving and saying hello to the people of Ballymena, not as rector but as Stuart.

## **Christians Against Poverty centre opens in Fermanagh**

The award winning national charity, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is partnering with Enniskillen Presbyterian Church together with St

Mary's Church Ardess and Holy Trinity Church Dromore to provide this new service.

CAP offers people a uniquely in-depth, caring service to people with spiralling personal debt regardless of their age, gender, faith or background. Every client is visited in their own home, the charity does all the negotiating with creditors and local volunteers offer support to each person face-to-face until the day they are debt free.

The opening of the CAP West Northern Ireland Centre coincides with the opening of two other new centres in Maghera and Newry which, together with the existing centres, will mean that every person in Northern Ireland is now within reach of a local CAP centre. This is unique in the UK.

If you know of someone who is struggling with debt they should be advised to contact CAP direct on 0800 328 0006. CAP will then arrange for a home visit from the local Debt Centre manager. The service is completely free and has received independent endorsement from Martin Lewis of the Money Saving Expert website.

Archbishop Justin Welby is the patron of CAP and to find out why he chose to take on this role and for further information please visit the website at [www.capuk.org/about-us/whos-who](http://www.capuk.org/about-us/whos-who)

Download leaflet at - [http://clogher.anglican.org/pdfs/15409referral leaflet june-2015 single %20pages.pdf](http://clogher.anglican.org/pdfs/15409referral%20leaflet%20june-2015%20single%20pages.pdf)

## **Cold Weather Initiative criticised by McVerry Trust**

The Irish Government is failing to stem the flow of people into homelessness and is undermining frontline efforts to tackle the emergency, according to the Peter McVerry Trust.

The charity made its criticism in a statement issued in response to the publication of the Annual Cold Weather Initiative for Dublin on Wednesday (4 November).

“While families are flooding into homelessness, Ministers are bickering, arguing with one another and disagreeing with one another. ‘Nero fiddles while Rome burns’ – that’s the only image we have. It’s an absolute disgrace. We have a crisis, it’s beyond crisis, we have an emergency,” said Fr Peter McVerry on Radio1 news.



He said that he backs Minister Alan Kelly and that rent controls and increased rent supplement need to be introduced.

“Clearly what the Government is doing is not working, that’s the bottom line. We had 60 families a month becoming homeless at the start of this year and in July/August/September, it was 73 families, and it is getting worse and worse and worse and the Government is fiddling around and bickering.”

The Cold Weather Initiative will provide 195 beds for individuals, 55 units for families and couples and plans for a further 80 rooms for families.

“The Cold Weather Initiative is planning to provide additional homeless accommodation to over 500 people between now and Christmas. That in itself is a scandalous reflection of the failure by Government to protect those most at

risk in Irish society,” said Pat Doyle, CEO of the Peter McVerry Trust.

In the first nine months of 2015, the homeless sector in Dublin has moved 729 people out of homelessness which was an increase of over 200 on the same period last year.

“Despite that increase and despite the 271 new beds added to the homeless system in Dublin last winter we face a situation where we need to add an even larger number this winter,” said Pat Doyle.

He called on the Government to heed the many charities who want an increase in rent supplement rates, immediate rent certainty, and more rapid provision of modular and traditional housing. “All Government Ministers must listen to homeless agencies and proactively engage to help tackle the emergency. People at risk and those experiencing homelessness need to see real leadership and a lot less political point scoring,” he said.

## **Tea up on Derry’s walls**

It will be all hands on deck for members of St Augustine’s (the ‘wee church on the Walls’) this



Saturday 8th November when a fund-raiser is held to pay for their new church roof.

St Augustine's church hall will be temporarily transformed into a coffee shop and a shopping arcade, with many stalls selling arts and crafts, home baking and much, much more. The St Augustine's 'deli range' of jams and chutneys will also be on sale.

The event – from 10am to 1pm – is an important part of the congregation's annual fund-raising. Already this year, with the help of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, the church has completely replaced the roof to preserve St Augustine's for future generations.



Its Rector, Revd Malcolm Ferry, has promised a warm welcome for all those who support this weekend's event. "This is a small but very hard working congregation whose members are putting a huge effort into fund-raising this year to help meet the cost of replacing our church roof. On Saturday, visitors will be welcome to sample our home-made teas, buy our home-made crafts and enjoy a morning of hospitality in St Augustine's,"

## **Pluralist Ireland needs a new theory of pluralism - Archbishop Martin of Dublin**

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin has called for a new theory of pluralism for Ireland which will help young people in their intellectual search and dialogue on the deeper questions around life and society.

In an address on Archbishop William Walsh, first Chancellor of the National University of Ireland (1908-1921), delivered at the Old Physics Theatre in Newman House in Dublin, the Archbishop underlined that there is no evidence that a totally "religiously neutral secularist



society” is the best space in which to foster dialogue between religions.

“There is indeed a sense in which, when it comes down to religious diversity, a more secularist society may not be the best one to be able to understand and guide the phenomenon,” he commented.

He recognised that the young person in today’s Ireland is called to grow towards responsibility within the realities of the culture of the day, influenced by ideas, by life styles, by the basic self-understanding of this concrete society.

“The young person must learn how to discern within that world where true progress is to be

found in his or her own personal life and in society as a whole.”

At the same time, the young person has to learn that society is not an abstraction or a force which is absolutely determinant regarding his or her own values and life style, he said.

The Archbishop said education will take place in a particular context, but all of us have the ability and indeed the responsibility to change the context within which education can take place. “To think or act otherwise is the recipe for fundamentalism,” he warned.

He also highlighted that there are forms of secular society worldwide in which hostility to religious values forces some religious groups into a dangerously narrow perception of their culture, into religious fundamentalism, and thus sharpen religious differences and misunderstanding of a pluralist society.

“The desire of a secularist society to reduce religion to the private sphere may make it hard for some to embrace fully the strong religious commitment of others,” he commented.

In his address, Dr Martin said it was his belief that inter-religious dialogue requires “the commitment of persons who are strongly rooted in their own faith, and not just by persons who have confused religious commitment or by people who are not religious at all”.

He added, “What is important, however, is that we all address the situation with a sense of mutual knowledge and respect.”

But he also emphasised that all faiths have to avoid any form of fundamentalism, fundamentalism in their own faith, fundamentalism about the role of religion.

“Religions are obliged to respect the legitimate autonomy of the secular order and of reason. Imposing a specific political programme in the name of God is to make yourself into God,” he said.

He recognised that the question of where religion can find its place in the overall picture of education is a renewed question in the Ireland of today.

Recalling the contribution and legacy of Dr William Walsh, Archbishop Martin said he had

had to fight for equitable access for Catholics to an educational system which was in accord with their convictions.

## **Dublin clerical appointment**

Canon Neal O’Raw has been appointed Rector of Donoughmore and Donard with Dunlavin in the Diocese of Glendalough. Canon O’Raw, who is currently Rector of Killala in the Diocese of Tuam, will be instituted by Archbishop Michael Jackson on Friday 15 January 2016.

Neal was born in Raheny in Dublin and grew up in Artane, attending secondary school in St David’s, Dublin. Prior to ordination he worked for in the Department of Post and Telegraphs for five years. He spent the next 20 years working in warehouse logistics and long distance haulage, both in driving and management.

Neal was ordained in 2002 for the curacy of the Killala Kilmoremoy Union of Parishes. In 2005 he was appointed Rector of the Killala Union of Parishes. He is a Canon of both St Mary’s Cathedral, Tuam and St Patrick’s Cathedral, Killala and is Rural Dean of the Diocese of Killala and Achonry.

Neal has been married to Siobhán, a Montessori teacher, for 36 years. The couple has three sons: Árainn, married to Ána, daughter Sorcha, living in Madrid; Alan living in Dublin; and Eoin living in Manchester, England.

His main interests revolve around woodwork and metalwork and his boat project. He is also learning to play the guitar and enjoys a bit of cycling to stay fit.

## **Church of Scotland University principal appointed chaplain to the Queen**

A distinguished Church of Scotland minister has been appointed one of the Queen's personal chaplains.

Professor David Fergusson, the principal of New College at Edinburgh University, was installed as a Chaplain-in-Ordinary at a ceremony at Greenbank Parish Church in the capital on Wednesday night.

The prestigious role dates back to the 15th century and is today largely a ceremonial honour



***Very Reverend John Chalmers, Principal Clerk of the Church of Scotland, Right Reverend Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Professor David Fergusson and the Very Reverend Professor Iain Torrance Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland.***

with chaplains taking part in formal state occasions and conducting services at significant national events.

Mr Fergusson, 59, who was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Aberdeen last year and worked there for 10 years, said: "It is an honour for me to be appointed to this position by the Queen, and I look forward to serving her in this capacity.

"After three years in parish ministry, my career since 1986 has been spent in the universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh.

"I have taught theology to students from across the world as well as those who are intending to serve as ministers here in Scotland - this has been a great privilege.

"I hope that my honorary appointment as a chaplain to the Queen ;may enable me to contribute further to the historic ties between the churches and universities of Scotland in rapidly changing circumstances."

Professor Fergusson, a renowned theologian and expert on religious history, is married to Margot and they have two sons, Mark, 26, and Calum, 22.

The Very Rev Professor Iain Torrance, Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland, said: "This is a wonderful recognition of David's many outstanding contributions to the Church and to Christian scholarship.

"David is a person who writes much admired theology for his professional colleagues but is



also able to write with warmth and great lucidity for the person in the pew.

"If becoming Moderator is the most important institutional role to which a minister may be called, appointment as a Chaplain to The Queen is the greatest personal honour.

"In each case in which The Queen makes such an appointment it is an indication of her trust in the person she is honouring".

The ceremony was attended by Moderator of the General Assembly the Right Rev Dr Angus Morrison and Church of Scotland principal clerk, the Very Rev John Chalmers.

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