



Dublin & Glendalough Diocese to raise 300,000 euros to help Irish Refugee Council

A new diocesan fundraising project which seeks to support the provision of accommodation for refugees and those emerging from direct provision has been announced. The dioceses

plan to raise €100,000 a year for the next three years to assist in an accommodation programme being put in place by the Irish Refugee Council (IRC).

“Raising €100,000 in each of three successive years may seem ambitious,” Archbishop Michael Jackson commented. “However, we are a large United Dioceses with a significant number of parishes and schools and university colleges. We have shown ourselves in the past willing and able to raise in one year €150,000 for the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City.”

The seeds for the new fundraising project were sown at Diocesan Synod 2015 when there were passionate speeches calling for ‘something more to be done’ about the housing crisis, homelessness and the refugee situation. In response to the request, Canon Horace McKinley, the Revd Olive Donohue and Dr Sharee Basdeo were appointed by Diocesan Councils to explore possible projects. The sub committee worked on identifying something specific since they felt it was not possible to do everything – ‘start small and think big’ was their motto.

After extensive research and discussions, the committee recently made a proposal to councils on a project being advanced by the Irish Refugee Council. This proposal was accepted unanimously. The IRC is Ireland's only national non-Governmental organisation specialising in working with refugees and people in the asylum process. In collaboration with the Association of Missionaries and Religious in Ireland, AMRI (formerly CORI and IMU), the IRC is in the process of acquiring several properties, both in Dublin and nationwide, that are being donated by the various AMRI congregations. These properties will all require very extensive renovation and modernisation and this is where the money raised by the people of Dublin and Glendalough will be utilised. It is hoped that the initial work on some of these properties will commence in June 2017.

AMRI has requested that properties they donate be used for two purposes. Firstly they wish to provide new, first time accommodation for people waiting to come out of the various Direct Provision Centres nationwide. At present, 3,500 people, one third of whom are children, are housed and waiting in this way. When they are granted leave to remain in Ireland, finding

accommodation then becomes the next major obstacle. Secondly, AMRI also wishes to contribute to providing accommodation for refugees, for example Syrian people, coming here under the Government's recent emergency response. This whole initiative is entitled 'A Transitional Housing and Resettlement Programme in Ireland'.

In partnership with various State Agencies, the IRC has set out three core areas to underpin and resource the project: Accommodation, Employment and Education. The ultimate aim is to move people on to independent living. The IRC is always very happy and willing to visit and give talks in schools and parishes, and their organisations.

Responding to the proposals by the Diocesan Councils sub committee, an IRC official stated: "AMRI is really delighted to have received this contact from the Church of Ireland's Dublin and Glendalough United Dioceses. The support of inter-Church bodies is quite essential for this project, as is the whole Church's public support and voice for those marginalized in our society".

Commending the project Archbishop Michael Jackson said: “We in these United Dioceses would wish to be part of this Project’s truly Christian response by AMRI. I shall therefore be contacting every parish and school (Primary and Secondary) in the United Dioceses in early November, asking that an appeal for this project be made before Christmas. This can be done by a direct local appeal or through a fundraising event. The sub-committee has proposed a diocesan target of €100,000 for this year’s appeal and the same figure to be targeted for the two following years of 2017 and 2018”. He added that by supporting this project, there would be a knock on effect of benefiting the current homelessness crisis as provision of accommodation for refugees and those coming from Direct Provision Centres will ease the burden on existing accommodation and homelessness agencies.

Irish Church leaders witnesses to historical Catholic and Lutheran ecumenical event

The Roman Catholic bishop of Limerick, Dr Brendan Leahy, the Church of Ireland Archbishop

of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson and a Minister from the Lutheran Church in Ireland, Pastor Martin Sauter, were among the 450 guests at Lund Cathedral on Monday for the historical ecumenical prayer service commemorating the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

The event was led by Pope Francis and the heads of the Lutheran World Federation. At the event, the Pope appealed to Catholics and Lutherans to “mend” history and look with honesty at the past, “recognising error and seeking forgiveness”.

Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick described the event as “very moving”.

“It would have been unimaginable to our parents’ generation to think that the Pope would be joining in the 500th commemoration of Martin Luther,” he told CatholicIreland.

“The fact that Pope Francis travelled to Lund, and that the ceremony was co-hosted by both the Catholic Church and the World Federation was very significant. Pope Francis underlined how Martin Luther can be understood within the perspective of the Church always reforming itself. The Pope has also spoken of the need for us all

to engage in drawing ‘closer’ to one another. He certainly was giving an example in that.”

The solemn yet contemporary ceremony had a “huge sense of history”, with profound quotes and words expressed, and a “universal” choice of music, including modern songs from many continents. “I was struck by the expression of our need to be grateful for the ‘gifts the Reformation brought’. We don’t always think of the Reformation in terms of gifts!” said Bishop Leahy.

Admittedly, the ceremony also recalled how hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives because of the divisions and tensions that arose on both sides at the Reformation, he continued. “But as well as the negative, it is important to believe that there were also gifts. Pope Francis has underlined that we Catholics can learn more about ‘reform’ and love for the Word of God from the Lutherans,” he added.

According to Bishop Leahy, there is a “certain acceleration of ecumenism” going on. He points, for example, to the recent commissioning of joint pairs of bishops, the ‘Together for Europe’ meeting of the European network of Christian movements, and now this meeting in Lund.

“Pope Francis has underlined that it’s not enough to have theological dialogue. We need also to ‘do’ things together, particularly in the area of works of mercy. That doing together will probably grow stronger now.”

The bishop of Limerick was invited to the event as one of a group of bishops of various churches who hold an ecumenical meeting promoted by the Focolare Movement each year. “For over thirty years this experience of fraternity and sharing between bishops of many churches, including the Lutheran church, has been taking place, building up a deep spiritual communion”, he said.

Asked about what comes after Lund, Bishop Leahy referred to the joint declaration made at Lund which committed the churches to move forward, thinking in particular of inter-church marriages.

“The discussion document *From Conflict to Communion*, published two years ago by Lutherans and Catholics, indicated steps we need to take, and some of the points have a universal application. I was struck, for instance, by the invitation to try and see things from the

perspective of unity even if the divisions can be more evident and visible at times,” he said.

The Reformation traditionally dates from 31 October 1517, when the German theologian, Martin Luther, nailed his 95 theses to the door of All Saints’ Church in Wittenberg. Monday’s event and the papal visit to Sweden marked the beginning of a year-long commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

New media officer for Cashel, Ferns and Ossory diocese

The Church of Ireland Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory Michael Burrows has announced the appointment of the freelance journalist and author Margaret Hawkins as the new communications officer with the diocese.

Margaret, a UCD Arts graduate will be providing communications and media support to the diocese on a part-time basis, succeeding the late Herbie Sharman who sadly died last January.

'The Diocese is most fortunate to have secured the services of someone with Margaret's



Margaret Hawkins, the new communications officer with the Church of Ireland Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory

experience. she already knows the world of journalism well and is blessed with the pen of a ready writer,' said Bishop Burrows.

'I look forward to working with her in the years ahead as she writes what many will read and

assists the church in speaking in such a way that many will hear.'

Margaret writes mainly for the Irish Farmers Journal and began her career with the People Newspaper Group. She is the author of two books, has had her work broadcast on the 'Sunday Miscellany' programme on RTE Radio 1 and South East Radio and presents regular programmes for the Christian Media Trust. She said she is looking forward to working with diocesan staff, clergy and parishioners to highlight the work of the diocese.

'One of my drivers as a journalist has always been to give voice to those who don't always have one and I hope that this will continue in this new chapter of my working life,' she said.

'I believe that the diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory has a good story to tell and I look forward to helping with that, letting people within and beyond the seven counties it covers know more about the life and witness of its people.'

Margaret (nee Twamley) grew up in Tinahely and lives in Broadway. She is married to Sam and they have three children, David, Jason and Samantha.

The Quietly Explosive Phenomenon Of 'Fresh Expressions' - Church Army report

They are small, godly and growing at an incredible rate.

They are "fresh expressions" of church and until now, they have had little attention beyond those directly involved.

Yet these fxC churches are springing up across the country in pubs, skate parks, schools, offices. They are flourishing in almost any space where to God is to be found - and in many spaces where it had been thought He could not be.

In ten years, they have quadrupled in number.

More than 1,100 of these new fxC churches now to be found working with "the disturbing but renewing Spirit of God", according to **new research** by the Church Army, a mission arm of the Church of England.

Leading these churches are nearly 600 "untrained and unauthorised" lay men and



Transforming Youth Mission fxC run by Church Army Centres of Mission, run by Church Army Evangelist, Nicholas Lebey (wearing Faith Words Action top) from the Greenwich Centre of Mission.

women who were "unknown" before the Church Army did its research.

And unlike most of the larger, evangelical megachurches where nearly all the leaders are men, dozens of gifted Christian women are emerging as capable leaders of fxC churches.

The Church Army says the established Church must not "despise" these new congregations,

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which attract twice the number of under-16s as mainstream churches.

The Church Army says: "Now may be the day of small things: a diverse set of small, sometimes frail, mainly young churches that lay a claim to being among our best hopes for the future. They are not the whole answer, but they are one sign of reform as well as renewal within the Church of England."

A **fresh expression** of church is a new gathering or network that engages mainly with people who have never been to church. The emphasis is on starting something new that is appropriate to its context, rather than cloning something that works elsewhere.

Across all 42 dioceses of the Church of England, there are now thought to be more than 3,000 fxC churches.

Across those surveyed in 21 dioceses, more than 50,600 people belong to 1,109 new fxC congregations. Half of these young churches are being led by women.

The report says the most common types of fxC churches are **Messy Church**, café church, child-focused church and church plants. There are 20 types in total, including "cluster" churches, new monastic communities, "cell" churches, churches for the under-5s, youth churches and even fxC churches for "older people".

The report says most fxC churches rarely hold communion status and often have "no legal status" at all within the Church of England.

The Church Army's research unit spent four years investigating the fxC phenomenon.

One significant finding is that just 10 per cent of attenders transferred from another local church, meaning these are new church members and not "stolen" from another church.

Members are much younger than normal, with an average age of 25-34 against the average age of 65 for parish church attenders. And fxC are doing particularly well on some of England's poorer housing estates.

George Lings, Church Army director of research, who unveiled the findings at the Wilson Carlile

Centre in Sheffield, said: "FxC is essentially a journey outwards, aimed at building relationships and helping people who are not currently church attenders to discover faith. Simply put, an fxC reimagines what it is to be a community around Christ, and how to stay faithful to traditional church, while at the same time, being more creative.

"Our hope is that this report may prove to be the best guide for dioceses, and the Church of England as a whole, about both the characteristics and performance of its younger churches for the next decade."

News briefs

+++ St Willibrod's Day - This evening St Willibrod's Day will be celebrated in St Lasarian's cathedral, Old Leighlin, with a service of Vespers at 7pm.

+++The Dublin & Glendalough Retired Clergy - will meet in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute on Tuesday where the speaker will be the Director of CITI, the Revd Dr Maurice Elliott.

+++ Lunchtime recital in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick - on Wednesday will be a piano duet by Aldo de Vero and Giuseppe Campris.

+++ Sydney diocese tackles domestic violence - Ministers in the Australian diocese of Sydney received compulsory training in domestic violence as part of the diocese's attempt to provide the best pastoral care for victims of DV. Last year the diocese convened a domestic violence task force, which has now produced its first report to the synod, in which they explain the prevalence of domestic violence and the state of training.

+++ Forthcoming Connor institution - The Rev Canon David Humphries will be instituted as rector of Kilbride Parish in a service at 8pm on Tuesday November 8.

David is originally from Belfast. He attended Annadale Grammar School and Stranmillis College, and taught Music, RE and Remedial English at the Boys' Model School, Belfast, for five years. He trained for ministry in Dublin and was ordained in 1986. His first curacy was in Ballyholme with Canon Jack Mercer, where he

remained for four years, until his appointment as Vicar Choral at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

After three years at St Anne's David moved to St Molua's, Stormont, where he was rector for 23 years.

He was appointed as a Canon of St Anne's Cathedral by the Bishop of Down and Dromore four years ago, a position he steps down from after his institution in the Diocese of Connor.

"I will be very sad to leave Stormont and the people I have come to know as friends but at the same time I am excited about meeting new people and taking up a new challenge," David said.

"I will be moving from an urban parish to a rural parish and I am looking forward to the new experience."

David has been leading pilgrimages to the Holy Land every year for 23 years. "This was quite accidental," he said. "A speaker wasn't able to make our Men's Society meeting, so I asked a good friend to come instead and give an illustrated talk about his trip to the Holy Land. I thanked him at the end and said maybe we

would organise a parish pilgrimage so we went ahead and did that.

“I was hooked from my first visit. The experience is different for everybody. For me it is the land that has such a pull. There is a feeling about it that is hard to describe, but what I take out of it is that it is God’s land. It says in the Bible many times ‘This is my land,’ and that’s why I keep going back.

“Christians in the Holy Land are small in number and need our support.”

David is the Chairperson of the Down & Dromore and Connor Organ Scholarship Scheme, which offers training in order to provide organists for the two dioceses.

The service in St Bride’s, Kilbride, is at 8pm, on November 8.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Sectarianism still alive and well in middle-class, insists unionist Kennedy

Belfast Telegraph

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/sectarianism-still-alive-and-well-in-middleclass-insists-unionist-kennedy-35189513.html?utm_source=ipad_share&utm_medium=ipad_app&utm_campaign=clickbacks

Marching band grants given to every group that filled out forms

Irish News

A funding scheme for marching bands reinstated by the DUP has awarded grants to every group that filled in the paperwork properly

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/11/04/news/marching-band-grants-given-to-every-group-that-filled-out-forms-768977/>

Church census likely to show again great need to turn tide of disillusion

Belfast Telegraph

Tomorrow morning members of the **Church of Ireland** all over this island will be asked to fill in, anonymously, forms about their age and gender.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/alf-mccreary/church-census-likely-to-show-again-great-need-to-turn-tide-of-disillusion-35188705.html>

The Irish forest that secretly grew a Celtic cross

Catholic World Report

Today, the symbol is visible from thousands of feet in the air, greeting passengers who fly into the City of Derry airport in County Londonderry, **Ireland**.

<http://www.catholicworldreport.com/NewsBriefs/Default.aspx?rssGuid=the-irish-forest-that-secretly-grew-a-celtic-cross-22153/>

Mail

Video interview with Revd Matt Woodcock, author of *Becoming Reverend* released this week by Church House Publishing.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/video/news/video-1353199/Matt-Woodcock-describes-pivotal-moment-decided-vicar.html>

S Times

Interview with Canon Joanna Penberthy, whose appointment as bishop elect of St Davids in Pembrokeshire was announced this week. She will be the first female bishop in the Church in Wales.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/female-welsh-bishop-is-strictly-scientific-qrwdwpk03>

S Times

Report that three former staff at Christ's Hospital, a co-educational Christian boarding school in Horsham, West Sussex have been arrested as

part of an investigation into claims of historical sex abuse on pupils, including the alleged rape of a girl, in the late 1980s and early 1990s. All three men are on bail until December 15. Article notes that the school, which was founded in the 16th century, is in an area covered by Peter Ball, a former Bishop of Lewes, who is serving a prison sentence for abusing young men.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/former-boarding-school-teachers-arrested-over-claims-of-sex-abuse-xsf6hpcnt>

S Exp

News item on reports that some Christian children in Egypt are being deprived of their education and being ousted from schools for refusing to wear a hijab. Article notes that many Christians have been forced to flee from other Middle East countries such as Syria and Iraq due to Islamic State, but in Egypt Christian Copts have been able to live within a margin of tolerance.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/728836/Christian-children-kicked-out-school-hijab-Koran>

S Exp

Report that a group of Christian girls in Iraq have been saved from an Islamic State jihadist raid after sending a text message to their vicar 60 miles away in the city of Erbil who alerted security forces. The incident took place in a student house in the city of Kirkuk which was raided by Isis but the girls remained hidden in a dark room until they were rescued.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/728334/ISIS-christian-girls-rescued-text-message-vicar-battle-mosul>

S Times

Report that a husband and wife have been prevented from trying to adopt their two young foster children after social services said it would not consider the couple's request because they had aired "concerning" opinions about the possibility of a same-sex couple being chosen as the adoptive parents instead. Includes comment from Andrea Williams of the Christian Legal Centre.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/couple-barred-from-adoption-in-gay-row-rfwdbd6t2>

S Times

Report that the former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams has called for a fresh

examination of the Jordanian Codices, a series of about 50 metal books described by some as a key find in Biblical archaeology and others as a fake, after tests showed they were not made from modern lead.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lead-sea-scrolls-row-reopened-d7rjkj7cz>

BBC/Tel/Mail

Report on tour of Middle East by the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, which started in Omam and included a service of celebration at Bait Al Noor Church, led by the Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37879658>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/05/prince-charles-tries-sword-dancing-on-royal-tour-of-the-middle-e/> <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3907884/Careful-Highness-Charles-joins-traditional-sword-dancing-begins-tour-Middle-East-Camilla-Oman.html>

FT (Sat)

First person article on a visit to Caracas, Venezuela with a Benedictine Monk, who preaches meditation and is giving a series of lectures on “Breaking the Cycle of Violence”. The author, who was previously a correspondent in the country, was acting as the monk’s translator.

<https://www.ft.com/content/33eb9dc4-a0e1-11e6-86d5-4e36b35c3550>

Premier (Sat)

Report that Canon Andrew White, known as the Vicar of Baghdad, has revealed he is leaving the charity he founded to start a new organisation. In a Facebook post Canon White confirmed he was leaving The Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME) and starting a new organisation called Jerusalem Middle East Reconciliation International. Earlier this year the Charity Commission launched an investigation into FRME, which the Commission confirmed to *Premier* is still ongoing.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Vicar-of-Baghdad-leaves-charity-amid-investigation>

C Times/Bradford Tel&Argus/Emirates247

Further coverage of the Muslim-Christian dialogue on integration and religious freedom in Abu Dhabi where the Archbishop of Canterbury gave the opening keynote address. *Tel & Argus* notes Bishop of Bradford's (Toby Howarth) speech at the dialogue with ref to Bradford's large Muslim population and said he was pleased the city's young women were "changing the face of leadership".

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2016/4-november/news/uk/welby-democracy-fails-if-it-does-not-value-individuals>

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/government/mohamed-bin-zayed-receives-sheikh-of-al-azhar-archbishop-of-canterbury-2016-11-04-1.643101>

Mail

Diary excerpts from *Becoming Reverend*, by Rev Matt Woodcock released this week by Church House Publishing , described as 'The hilarious (and surprisingly racy) diaries of a likely lad who decided to become a man of the cloth'.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3907454/The-thing-learned-trainee-vicar-dog-collar-makes-50-sexier-hilarious-surprisingly-racy-diaries-likely-lad-decided-man-cloth.html#ixzz4P7HZo43q>

BBC/Tel

British people have much to learn from the “vibrancy of the Muslim faith” of new immigrants including refugees, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales has said in a BBC interview. Cardinal Vincent Nichols said immigrants had been enduring a worsening “atmosphere of fear” in the months since the EU

referendum with the members of the public casually voicing hatred in a “self-indulgent” way.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37876157>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/04/britons-could-learn-from-vibrant-faith-of-muslim-migrants---card/>

BBC

Report that the homes of about 11,000 children in Wales will lose hundreds of pounds a month under a new lower cap on benefit payments, the Children's Society has warned. The annual welfare payment limit drops from £26,000 to £20,000 everywhere in Britain, outside London, on 7 November. The Children's Society said saving cash by taking help from the "poorest children" was "unnecessary and unfair".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-37860501>

BBC

Report that an official Christmas coin has been designed by the Bishop of St Asaph for The Royal Mint. The £20 silver coin shows the nativity story and features the wise men visiting Jesus shortly after his birth. It is the second coin Bishop Gregory Cameron has designed, as he created the artwork for the final commemorative round £1

coin back in May following a Royal Mint competition.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-37872911>

Obituary

Guard

Sarah Smith who has died of ovarian cancer aged 52; report notes that Sarah, who stood as a Lib Dem candidate in the 2015 General Election previously worked for the Church of England, employed by the National Church Institutions at Church House Westminster.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/nov/04/sarah-smith-obituary>