



***Kylemore Abbey is a Benedictine monastery founded in 1920 in the grounds of Kylemore Castle, in Connemara, County Galway, Ireland. The abbey was founded for Benedictine Nuns who fled Belgium in World War I.***

## **Taoiseach launches Kylemore Abbey education centre linked with Notre Dame university**

The Taoiseach Enda Kenny has launched the new education centre at Kylemore Abbey which is part of a partnership programme between the University of Notre Dame and the Benedictine community in Co Galway.

The top US catholic university and Kylemore Abbey announced last year that they would create a centre to advance shared spiritual, cultural and educational missions.

Facilitating the programme with the US college will give Kylemore Abbey, which closed down its boarding school in 2010, a new lease of life.

The university has said the programmes that will be developed for its student at Kylemore “will draw both upon the rich tradition of Benedictine spirituality and the academic rigour of Notre Dame”.

The abbess of Kylemore, Sr Maire Hickey, said last year that she had “high hopes that this partnership will yield rich fruits for generations to come”.

The partnership is being supported by Martin Naughton, a billionaire Irish businessman who founded consumer electrical goods firm Glen Dimplex.

Mr Naughton has already helped fund the University of Notre Dame’s Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies.

Notre Dame has a partnership in Dublin to provide academic and intellectual hubs where

students and leaders from government and business gather to discuss issues.

Kylemore abbey, with its gothic chapel and Victorian walled garden, is already among the top tourism destinations in the west of Ireland.

It is hoped that the new educational centre will attract more visitors from the US.

## **Learning to disagree agreeably - C of I lessons from previous controversies**

The Bishop of Cashel and Ossory, the Right Reverend Michael Burrows will be giving a public talk on

"Learning to disagree agreeably: Lessons from previous controversies in the Church of Ireland." It will take place in St. Audoen's Church (near Christ Church), Dublin, on Saturday October 17th 2015 at 2.45 pm.

It will be followed by tea and coffee and all are welcome. Preceding the talk the Bishop will celebrate Holy Communion in the church at 2pm.

The talk and service are arranged by Changing Attitude Ireland (CAI) on the occasion of its Annual General Meeting and the AGM will begin at 4.15pm.

CAI is founded as a network of people, gay and straight, lay and ordained, working for the full affirmation of LGBT persons within the Church of Ireland and the wider Anglican Communion.

## **Christ Church Dublin vigil for peace and refugee crisis**

A day of prayer for peace and those caught up in the refugee crisis in Europe will take place in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Thursday October 8 from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm. The Vigil for Peace has been organised by the Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland in response to the spiraling humanitarian crisis.

The day will begin with Morning Prayer and conclude with Choral Evensong. Throughout the day there will be prayerful reflection from various contributors. People will be welcome to light a candle and say a prayer at any time during the day.

Ministry Facilitator, Dr Iva Baranek, explains: "The refugee crisis in Europe has escalated to a

very worrying degree that we can no longer ignore it. Many of us were at a loss when thinking how to respond. Recently we encouraged everyone to [pray for the refugees](#), trusting that our prayer is effective even when we do not know its direct fruit. In this way we welcome people in need into our hearts, as we offer their need to God in prayer. The Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland was looking for ways to further our call to prayer and so we decided to organise a Vigil for Peace. We would like to invite you all to join us".

The schedule for the vigil is as follows:

10.00 Morning Prayer

11.00 Linda Chambers from the United Society

12.00 Carmelite Friars (OCD) from Clarendon Street

12.45 The Eucharist with prayers for healing. The celebrant is the Very Rev Dermot Dunne, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral

14.00 Lydia Monds from the Bishops' Appeal

15.00 To be confirmed

16.00 Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland

17.00 To be confirmed

18.00 Choral Evensong

There will be opportunity to donate to the Bishops' Appeal at the vigil. Donations will continue to be directed to the needs of 12.2 million people in Syria and 4 million refugees in neighbouring Iraq and Lebanon as well as to NGOs and community initiatives responding to the needs in EU countries.

All are welcome to attend.

## **Methodist Hosford Team returns from Homeless World Cup**

The East Belfast Mission has welcomed home the Hosford football team who had travelled out to Amsterdam to take part in the Homeless World Cup.

The team qualified to the top groups for the first time ever! Pictured is player Richard McKay who won the Fair Play trophy after helping his opposing number despite the whistle not being blown.

The team had 8 players listed to go and at the last minute one of the main players had to pull out. During the first match, another player was injured and couldn't play into the next round but still, the team went on to beat Finland and France and get past group stages.



Justin McMinn team manager said; *'Many of our players have faced massive difficulties from a very young age. They have not had the opportunities most of us take for granted. Street Soccer is working to tackle this, to give people another chance, and to inspire people'.*

Player Sevy Folman said; *'It's been the best 10 days of my life! I want to stay part of Street Soccer and become a coach but I also want to get full time work as soon as possible. I want to travel again and to see the world. There are so many things I want to do'.*

The 2016 Homeless World Cup is in Calcutta so I guess the training will soon start all over again.

Hosford is the homeless project of East Belfast Mission based in the Skainos Centre on the Lower Newtownards Road in East Belfast and for over 20 years Hosford has provided services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

## **Presbyterian Mutual Society makes £14m profit**

The Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS) made a profit of almost £14m in the year to March, mainly due to a rise in the value of its properties.

The information comes from the latest accounts.

After a lengthy campaign by 10,000 savers, the Government made with-interest loans of £225m to the society in 2010 to bail it out.

It suffered a run in the banking crisis of 2008, due to what the Treasury Select Committee described as “a fatal regulatory gap”.

The latest accounts say that £144m remains outstanding of the £175m loan, which must be repaid by 2020.

A further £50m must be repaid when the society is wound up, when larger savers who deferred



withdrawing all their money may also receive further cash, if funds permit.

It is currently repaying the loans using rental income from investment properties.

## **New head chaplain to the Irish Defence Forces**

Limerick-native Fr Seamus Madigan has been appointed head chaplain to the Irish Defence Forces.

His appointment follows nine years as chaplain at Sarsfield Barracks in Limerick.

In that time he has served on overseas missions in Kosovo, Chad and the Lebanon as well as providing pastoral care and spiritual support to Defence Forces members in Limerick.

Fr Seamus said it is was “a great honour” to be appointed to the new role, where he will head up a team of 14 chaplains.

“It is a big move, but it is a great opportunity too,” said Fr Seamus, who will be based at Defence Forces headquarters in McKee Barracks in Dublin.



***Fr Robert McCabe, Mgr Eoin Thynne & Fr Séamus Madigan.***

“I will be quite involved with the 1916 centenary celebrations and it will be a wonderful honour to be in the centre of that,” he added.

Fr Seamus’ mother Kathleen and six of his seven siblings still live in the Croagh area.

He was ordained in Croagh in 1991 for the Society of St Francis de Sales (Salesians), and was incardinated in the Diocese of Limerick in 2003 when he was appointed chaplain in Castletroy Community College, a post he held until taking up the chaplaincy at Sarsfield Barracks, where he served for nine years.

## **Freed slave was baptised in Bandon - C of I records show**

Occasionally in the course of their work, library staff at the RCB Library in Dublin come across more unusual pieces of information of lives lived and long forgotten, and this month's Archive of the Month focuses on one such story – the extraordinary survival and migration of a child from 'the interior of Africa' who was saved from slavery and brought to Ireland after his family and 'all his tribe had been killed in war'. The story is recorded as an annotation in the entries of baptism for the parish of Kilbrogan, county Cork, which centres on the town of Bandon.

Instead of the standard pro-forma information of who the child's parents were and where they lived, this entry records his fortuitous escape from slavery. The record states that on 15th April 1855 the rector of the parish, Revd Charles Bernard baptised a child 'aged about 7 years' with the Christian names 'George Ellis Bernard' and presumably surname of 'Freeman'. The entry further fleshes out his story: that he was the son of an African chieftain from the interior of Africa, whose tribe were killed in war and as a result he was 'sold as a slave'.

Since the British slave trade had been abolished in 1807 (and slavery itself was abolished in the British Empire in 1833) we can assume that he must have been sold as a slave in the internal African trade, he was found by 'Capt. Ed. Ellis' – master mariner from Bandon – who, as the register entry continues to narrate, had been 'trading up the river Gaboon and Cameroon' in the 1850s, and 'made [the child] free' by bringing him to 'this country for education and religious training'.

The use of the middle names of Ellis on the one hand and Bernard on the other may be a tribute or connection to the man who rescued the child in Africa, and the rector who baptised him in Ireland. Neither man appears to have adopted him, or at least that information is not recorded in the baptismal register, and he does appear to have received the surname Freeman.

The online presentation explores the background to this unusual entry and speculates what might have happened to George and the influences in Ireland giving him support. To date, no further information about what became of him has come to light. However, by putting the story on public record, the hope is that it may spark further interest and feedback from members of the public. See the Freeman archive at -

[www.ireland.anglican.org/about/128](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/128)

The RCB Library in Dublin is custodian of over 1,000 collections of Church of Ireland records which have been transferred from the parishes where they were created to the library's safe custody.

Within each collection are various categories of records, the most widely-used of which are the registers of baptism, marriage and burial. These document the lives of millions of people – when and where they were born; who their parents were; who they married; details of their spouses' fathers and occupations; and ultimately if and when they received a Christian burial.

## **RSCM Meet and Sing in Kilbride**

Kilbride Parish Church, Doagh, hosted an RSCM Ireland Meet and Sing event on September 26.

Around 20 people gathered to hear Mark Bowyer, RSCM Ireland coordinator, talk about the role of the RSCM, the support it offers to those who are involved in church music, and how to promote the best use of music in worship, church life and the wider community.



***Mark Bowyer, RSCM Ireland coordinator, in Kilbride.***

Some time was spent discussing the RSCM's Voice for Life (VfL) training scheme which offers a structured approach to helping choristers develop their full potential as singers and musicians. Rosemary Smyth from St Gall's Church, Carnalea, gave a brief insight into her own experience of running the VfL scheme in St Gall's.

After a brief lunch break, there was an opportunity to do some singing, during which the choir of Kilbride Church (directed by Beth Aiken) rehearsed their harvest anthem, Greene's

‘Thou visitest the earth,’ and there was an opportunity to get some feedback from Mark on their performance!

Following this, Mark took the choir through some alternative music styles including responsorial psalms, plainchant and music by John Bell and John Rutter.

Mark said: “It was a thoroughly enjoyable few hours spent with enthusiastic local parish musicians. Thank you to all who were involved in organising the event.”

Further details regarding the work of RSCM Ireland can be found at [www.rscmireland.com](http://www.rscmireland.com).

## **Prayers for Refugees at Donegal Schools' Service**

Refugees were to the fore in prayers requested by children at an unprecedented schools' service held today in Ramelton Presbyterian Church. More than 550 pupils from 29 schools – all under Church of Ireland or Presbyterian patronage – took part in the service, at which the children were told that they would “change the world”.



The worship was led by the Moderator of Derry and Donegal Presbytery, Rev Mark Shaw and the preacher was the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Ken Good. The three readings were delivered by children, from Ayr Hill National School, Brownknowe N.S. and Cashelshanaghan N.S.

Clergy from throughout the Derry and Raphoe Diocese and the Derry and Donegal Presbytery also attended, including the Clerk of the Presbytery, Rev Dr Robert Buick and the Archdeacon of Raphoe, Ven. David Huss.

In his sermon, Bishop Good invited the children to applaud their teachers, for whom the new school term was a new beginning. He said all



those in the congregation would learn new things this year and many would get new friends. Bishop Good said we could soon have refugees living in our community; that, too, would be a new beginning – for them and for us.

The Bishop said in the three readings, people were invited to come with the Lord as they made new beginnings. In doing so, they knew they weren't alone. And they knew that their lives would be changed for the better. "In each of the three cases, they took a risk. They heard God inviting them and they accepted the invitation. And they went on to be changed as people and to change the world.

The Schools' Service was the first of its kind in the county and Des West, from the Diocesan Board of Education said the possibility of the service becoming an annual event was "under consideration".

The Minister of Ramelton Presbyterian Church, Rev Amanda Best, thanked the Diocesan Board for organising the service, and expressed her gratitude to members of her own congregation for helping with catering and stewarding.

At the end of the service, each school took away a 'goody-bag'.

## **New youth worker for Mount Merrion Church**

Mount Merrion Church, Cregagh, Belfast, has just announced the appointment of a new part-time youth worker, Laura Stevenson.

Laura grew up in Dollingstown and, together with her family, took an active part in life at Shankill Parish, Lurgan.

On leaving school she studied for her degree in adult nursing at Queens before completing a certificate in theology at Belfast Bible College.

She has a passion for working with young people, especially disadvantaged girls, and says:

“My heart is to see a group of young people who want to make a change and difference in their culture. Who know who they are in Jesus, their freedom is contagious, their passion is attractive, they know life to it's fullness and they are carriers of hope that give others the courage to be who they are created to be.”

In her spare time Laura loves drumming and photography.

## **‘Humble’ pope is arrogant, says Evangelical Protestant Society**

The Evangelical Protestant Society has opposed the possibility of Pope Francis visiting Northern Ireland – on the grounds that he “lays claim to spiritual sovereignty over the whole church”.

News Letter - It was announced on Monday that the three-yearly global Catholic event, the World Meeting of Families, would take place in the Republic of Ireland in 2018. The pontiff of the day traditionally attends the event, prompting speculation he may also visit Northern Ireland at the same time.

Wallace Thompson of the Evangelical Protestant Society said it had “no desire to deny the people of any faith the right to have a visit by the head of their church. However, in the case of the pope, the position is complicated by his unique claims.”

He added: “The reality is that this ‘humble’ Pope makes the same arrogant claims as his predecessors. His titles include ‘Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church’, ‘Successor of the prince of the Apostles’ and ‘Vicar of Jesus

Christ'. He therefore lays claim to spiritual sovereignty over the whole church, and no visit can be merely 'pastoral'."

Meanwhile, Belfast Alliance councillor Nuala McAllister said that she is planning to bring forward a motion asking all councillors to welcome a visit by Pope Francis to Belfast.

First Minister Peter Robinson said whether he would visit was "entirely a matter for the Catholic hierarchy".

He added: "We welcome visitors to Northern Ireland all the time."

## Media digest

### D Mail

Report that in a letter to a conference on climate change attended by senior judges, the Prince of Wales said they should 'discuss ways courts can support the achievement of climate change goals'. Article states the intervention intervention follows that of the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, who is leading a campaign for new international greenhouse laws  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3254256/Back-climate-change-agenda->

[Charles-tells-judges-Prince-makes-public-bid-influence-courts.html#ixzz3nClr02Uz](#)

## **Guard**

Report that black British activists have warned David Cameron that pressure to make reparations for slavery will not go away, after the prime minister faced calls to make amends for Britain's historical role in the trade before his trip to Jamaica. Article notes in 2006, Tony Blair expressed his "deep sorrow" for slavery, months after the Church of England apologised for its role, but said the prime minister stopped short of admitting historical guilt.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/29/slavery-reparations-david-cameron-jamaica-visit>

## **BBC**

Report that the Ven Ruth Worsley was to be consecrated yesterday at St Paul's Cathedral (see *above*), at Bishop of Taunton.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-34379198>

## **ITV**

Report that the Vicar of Hull's Holy Trinity Church, Rev Canon Dr Neal Barnes, has written to MKM Executive Chairman David Kilburn congratulating him on his "coup" in bringing rock

start Rod Stewart to Hull next year and thanked him for nominating the church's development project to benefit from the show.

<http://www.itv.com/news/calendar/update/2015-09-29/vicars-tribute-as-holy-trinity-set-to-benefit-from-rod-stewart-concert/>

## **Times**

Article by author Bill Bryson on why the Green Belt matters.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/arts/books/extracts/article4571206.ece>

## **BBC**

Report that the loss of 421 people including sailors, women and children when a warship sank during WW1 will be marked by a series of events. HMS Natal capsized in the Cromarty Firth in the Highlands minutes after ammunition on board exploded. The commemorative events will begin today with a memorial church service at Invergordon Parish Church.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-34388839>

## **Mirror**

Report that a serial robber who pinched a pensioner's handbag during an Easter service then tried to mug her friend in front of shocked

parishioners has been jailed. Arthur McDonagh, 41, targeted the two elderly women as they attended a church service at St James' Church in Gorton, Manchester Crown Court heard yesterday.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/serial-crook-who-targeted-elderly-6543645>

## **Obituary**

Rev Kenneth Leech, Anglican priest who founded the charity Centrepont after ministering to the homeless on the streets of London in the Sixties.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/obituaries/article4571384.ece>

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