



Belfast Cathedral's 'The King at Christmas', Elvis tribute

St Anne's Cathedral will be hosting a festive treat for all fans of Elvis when the King's top Irish tribute act Ciaran Houlihan and his band appear in this fantastic setting for one night only on December 3.

The Elvis Spectacular stars 2012 European Champion Ciaran with his TCB Band and The Sweet Sensations.

Ciaran looks, sounds and moves just like the King of Rock and Roll – his concert in the Grand Opera House on October 2 was a sell-out.

The Cathedral concert – The King at Christmas – will have a gospel focus – no trouble for Ciaran whose many awards includes 'Best Gospel Elvis!'

A spokesperson said - Belfast Cathedral is delighted to host this show and the audience can look forward to enjoying some of Elvis's great gospel hits including 'How great Thou art,' 'Come all you faithful,' 'Amazing Grace' and 'The Lord's Prayer,' as well as many of the King's huge rock 'n roll hits!

Tickets are £15 and are available from the Cathedral Welcome Desk or online at <https://www.musicglue.com/belfast-cathedral> . There will

be limited parking available at the Cathedral for £4.

The show starts at 7.30pm on Saturday December 3. Seating is unreserved.

A new chronicle published of history, art and politics at Nun's Cross Church

A beautiful new book chronicling the long and distinguished history of Nun's Cross Church, Killiskey, was launched on Friday evening (October 17) by Archbishop Michael Jackson. *Nun's Cross Church, Co. Wicklow and its Treasures, 1817–2017* by Patricia Butler with photography by Mark Boland, was commissioned by the select vestry of Killiskey to mark the bicentenary of their church. A huge crowd of people connected with the church and from the wider community attended the launch which took place in Clermont Campus and which heralds the start of the church's 200th anniversary celebrations.

The history of Nun's Cross Church dates back to its medieval foundation in 1179 AD. The new church, completed in 1817 contains an



Vicar of Killiskey, the Revd Ken Rue; Patricia Butler, author; Archbishop Michael Jackson; and Daniel J Healy, at the launch of Nun's Cross Church, Co. Wicklow and its Treasures, 1817–2017.

astonishing array of ‘treasures’ outstanding not only for their quality but also for their diversity and interest. Home to a rich collection of items in wood, stone and marble which have direct links to the great international revival of design and artistic craftsmanship known as the Arts & Crafts Movement (c.1885–c.1925), the church is also fortunate to possess a unique and important collection of stained glass executed by leading international artists Michael O’Connor, Charles

Emer Kempe and Catherine O'Brien (An Tur Gloine). Links to the political (Sir Roger Casement) and literary (John Millington Synge) scenes are also present and discussed.

Officially launching the book, Archbishop Jackson said a debt of gratitude was owed to Patricia Butler for tremendous work she put into envisioning the book. "The fact that you are all here shows the affection in which you hold Nun's Cross Church, for its historical continuity, its historical innovation, the importance of the site and the way in which it has been used as a place of worship for centuries. The building draws us into the totality and complexity of our own history in Ireland. The architect of the building was associated with the building of the GPO. Then there is the relationship with Roger Casement and his family. Artistically and aesthetically we find ourselves with the best locally, nationally and internationally," he said.

Patricia, who is a parishioner of Nun's Cross as well as being a distinguished art historian, thanked all associated with bringing the book to publication. She described the treasurers to be found in the church and said, "This church is not

only a focal point for worship but also an art gallery open for all to enjoy”.

Vicar of Killiskey, the Revd Ken Rue, paid tribute to the parish’s bicentenary committee and thanked Patricia Butler for working diligently for two years on producing the book. He also acknowledged the support of Wicklow County Council’s 1916–2016 fund and the sponsors of the launch event. He said there would be many bicentenary events taking place during 2017. The parish hopes to hold some joint events with Ashford Parish which celebrates its 100th anniversary next year.

The book costs €25 and is available at the Hub in Ashford, Bridge Street Books in Wicklow and from Lesley Rue at +353 (0) 87 2810478 or by email at lesleyrue@gmail.com.

Church links of young Kilkeel entrepreneur in BBC show

Stephen Henderson, a 21 year–old businessman from Kilkeel, is one of the entrepreneurs who was



featured in BBC One's *Made in Northern Ireland* , last night Monday 17 October.

Stephen is part of the worship team in Christ Church Kilkeel and is the owner and founder of [Ruach Music](#). The company makes a growing range of instruments and accessories handmade in Northern Ireland for sale in the UK, Ireland and exported to Europe.

Made in Northern Ireland, is presented by Stephen Nolan and “features local entrepreneurs with their wise and sometimes wacky ideas.” The inventions have been designed in homes, sheds, garages and workshops across Northern Ireland and the show launches them to the public.

Although young, Stephen is already an established entrepreneur and aged just 20 was named ‘*Institute of Directors Young Director of the Year*’. He is constantly innovating to grow Ruach Music and keep ahead of the competition but not at the expense of his Christian faith. Stephen finds time to lead in the parish Youth Fellowship and play guitar in the worship team.

Back in July 2015 he was interviewed about the role faith plays in his business life. You can read the article [here](#).

Dean of Liverpool to lead Advent preparation for Connor clergy

The Very Rev Pete Wilcox, Dean of Liverpool, will be the guest speaker at a pre-Advent Quiet

Morning hosted by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy.

This takes place in Lisburn Cathedral on Thursday November 10, running from 10am until lunch at 1pm.

Dean Wilcox trained at Ridley Hall in Cambridge after completing a degree in modern history at Durham University. He served as a curate on Teesside, and then studied for a doctorate at Oxford University, before returning to the Durham Diocese to serve as a team vicar in the Parish of Gateshead.

During this time he assisted in the training of ordinands at Cranmer Hall as Director of its Urban Mission Centre. Theological education and training remains a key area of interest for Pete, and bible teaching is his chief passion.

In 1998 he took up a new position as priest in charge of St Paul's Church at the Crossing in Walsall – an ambitiously re-ordered town centre church combining the leadership of a Christian Social Enterprise with that of a thriving congregation.

He established a mandated ministry leadership team there, committed to empowering and facilitating the contribution of the whole people of God in mission. Between August 2006 and July 2012 he was Canon Chancellor at Lichfield Cathedral, a post which involved oversight of the Cathedral's work in education and outreach.

He is married to a writer, Catherine Fox. They have two adult sons. The Dean is a fan of all ball sports, and follows the fortunes of Newcastle United especially closely. He is the author of three books: 'Living the Dream' (2007), 'Walking the Walk (2009) and 'Talking the Talk' (2011).

Dean Wilcox will lead two sessions at the Quiet Morning. The first is entitled Lamentations in Advent: The cry of those who suffer violence. The second is Revelation in Advent: The fate of those who perpetrate violence. There will be an opportunity for questions at the end of both sessions.

Bishop 'shells out the shillings' for Tuam clergy conference

TKA Annual Clergy Conference took place between the 12th and 14th October.

A participant reports - "The venue this year was the excellent Armada Hotel at Spanish Point in County Clare. As we pulled into the hotel car park we were greeted by a stunning view over Spanish Point Bay with it's golden strand as the sun sparkled with autumnal gentleness on the diamond-chip waters.

"The conference of 2016 was the first time that spouses had been invited to join the clerical gathering. This added a new dimension to every aspect of the conference: from chit-chat over excellent meals to insights during the more formal sessions.

"Two speakers addressed us during the couple of days. Alison Rooke led our thoughts on 'Rectory Life: Reality and Expectations'. Bishop Kenneth Kearon chose the subject of 'The Anglican Communion ' as his topic and brought his wealth of experience of the Communion to the table.

"Sandwiched between these sessions was the Clergy Book Club during which ' A Thousand Splendid Suns' by Khaled Hosseini (a book chosen by Archdeacon Alan Synnott) was discussed, debated, praised and piloried. The

final opinion was that this book had certainly touched nerves and drawn reaction!

“Conference was, of course, punctuated throughout by worship. This was organised and led by Revd Jennifer McWhirter. And we must thank Revd Bob Hanna for allowing us to use his stunning little church in Spanish Point for the Thursday morning celebration of the Eucharist.

“Our get-together was not by any means all stodge, formality and seriousness. A trip was organised to the magnificent Cliffs of Moher by way of ‘The Rock Shop’ (the latter insisted on by those who felt the need for retail therapy). Again mother sun shone on us as we peered over the protective wall at the edge of vertigo-inducing vistas. So Conference 2016 closed as a roaring success and we thanked Bishop Patrick for ‘shelling out the shillings’ to make it possible and Provost Stan for doing the planning and organisation.”

‘Society is marginalising the elderly,’ Pope tells audience of grandparents

The Pope has warned that the elderly are at risk of being marginalised in a “harmful throwaway culture”.

In front of an audience of about 7,000 grandmothers and grandfathers in the Vatican’s Paul VI hall, Pope Francis said: “It’s necessary to oppose the harmful throwaway culture, which marginalises the elderly, believing them to be unproductive.”

The Pope described older generations as “the roots and memory of a people,” which make them “a precious treasure”. He went on to say that the church looks upon older people “with affection, recognition and great esteem,” as they are an “essential part of the Christian community and society.”

In the address on 15 October, Pope Francis urged grandparents to “talk to your grandchildren. Let them ask you questions.”

In a world where “strength and appearance are often idealised, you have the mission of witnessing to the values that truly count and that always remain,” he said.

“Older people can offer an important witness that no matter how hard things get, one must never lose faith in God and in a better future.”

The event was held in belated celebration of Grandparent’s Day, held in Italy on October 2, the feast of the Guardian Angels.

News briefs

+++ Church sympathy on death of Antony Foley - Bishop Kenneth Kearon in a message to the Foley family said ,‘On behalf of the whole Church of Ireland community in Limerick and Clare let me express our shock and deep sadness at the sudden death of Anthony Foley. He was an iconic figure in Munster, demonstrating all that is great and exemplary in Munster rugby, and a true ambassador for Irish sport.

‘Foremost in our thoughts and prayers at this time are his wife Olive, his sons Tony and Dan, parents Brendan and Sheila and the extended family, whose personal grief is unfathomable. That grief extends to all who knew and admired him, on and off the field. Assuring all of our prayers and sympathy at this sad time.’

+++ Armagh Diocesan Synod today - The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, will deliver his Presidential Synod Address tomorrow morning at the 2016 Armagh Diocesan Synod in the Alexander Synod Hall, Church House, Armagh (Tuesday 18th October 2016). He will speak on the themes of applying the 'five marks of mission' identified by the Anglican Communion: to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom; to teach, baptise and nurture new believers; to respond to human need by loving service; to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation; and to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

+++Connor & Down clerical changes - Bishop Noel Treanor has made the following clerical appointments which will take effect on Friday 28th October 2016:

Very Rev Martin Kelly to retire as a Pastoral Emeritus

Very Rev Michael Sheehan, to be PP Drumbo & Carryduff

Very Rev Eugene O'Neill, to be Adm St Patrick's,
Belfast

Very Rev Brendan Smyth, to be PP Killyleagh

Very Rev Brendan Mulhall, to be Adm Holy Trinity

Very Rev Diarmuid Sheehan, on loan from The
White Fathers, to be Adm Coleraine

Very Rev Martin Magill, to be Adm Ballyclare &
Ballygowan

Very Rev Darach MacGiolla Cathain, to be PP
Sacred Heart

Very Rev Peter Carlin, to provide pastoral
support in Sacred Heart Parish

Very Rev Patrick McCafferty, to be PP Corpus
Christi

Rev Don Kettle, on loan from Archdiocese of
Perth, to be Adm Crossgar

Rev Conor McGrath, to be CC Drumbo &
Carryduff

Rev James O'Reilly, newly ordained, to be CC
Antrim

Very Rev Brian O'Kane SMA, to be Adm
Rasharkin *pro tempore*

Rev Gerard Fox, to be Associate Episcopal Vicar
for Education

Rev Edward McGee, to be Director of Schools
Trustee Service

+++ Lambeg parish institution - The institution of the Rev Edmond (Eddie) Coulter as rector of Lambeg Parish Church took place on Thursday October 13. He was instituted by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy. Preacher at the service was the Rt Rev Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh. Eddie grew up in Lisburn and was a member of Lisburn Cathedral when called to Ordination in 1984. He did his training at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin and in 1987 was ordained in Connor Diocese.

He served his first curacy in Ballymena (1987-90) and a second curacy in Knockbreda, Diocese of Down and Dromore (1990-92). In 1992 Eddie returned to Connor Diocese as rector of Upper Falls, Belfast, and in 1997 moved to Milltown Parish in Armagh Diocese. He remained rector there until 2003 when he moved to Dublin as Superintendent of Irish Church Missions and senior pastor of Immanuel Church. Eddie is married to Hazel, and they have three children, David who is an occupational therapist based in London, Andrew who is training in physiotherapy in Aberdeen and Anna, currently studying music at Maynooth.

Eddie said he and Hazel were delighted to ‘come home’ to Lisburn and to Connor. “We really enjoyed our time in Dublin,” he said. “Immanuel Parish has been very different from any parish I have been in before with a lot of training, church planting and other things, but I feel very happy to be coming back to Connor and to parish life and to maybe doing some of the things I have learned here in my new parish.”

Eddie’s main hobby is supporting Manchester United. “I am a great fan. My late dad, who was also Eddie, was Chief Scout for Manchester United in Northern Ireland through the Alex Ferguson years,” he revealed!

+++ Lisburn institution - On Thursday evening the Bishop of Connor will institute the Revd Arthur Young as Rector of St Paul’s, Lisburn. Mr Young has been Rector of Kill O’ the Grange since 2013.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Only 15% NI Catholics backed Brexit
News Letter

Just 15% of voters from a Catholic background in Northern Ireland voted for Brexit, according to a major academic study into why people voted the way that they did.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/just-15-of-catholic-voters-backed-brexit-says-major-study-1-7630311>

Government gave UDA-linked groups £5 million of taxpayers' money

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sunday-life/government-gave-udalinked-groups-5-million-of-taxpayers-money-35121805.html>

Alleged UDA link to death of teen raises more Charter NI concerns

Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2016/10/17/news/alleged-uda-link-to-teen-s-death-raises-more-charter-ni-concerns-says-mla-739937/>

Irish women 'access abortion pills online'

BBC News

Women aged 25 to 35 are the most likely group in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland to

access medication online to end a pregnancy, a study suggests.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-37657042>

BBC

Report that fourteen migrant children are expected to arrive in Britain from Calais later to be reunited with their relatives. They are the first group of minors to be brought over by the Home Office under a fast-track registration scheme.

Those arriving, from the "Jungle" camp, include Afghans, Syrians and children who are officially stateless. On arrival the children's first task will be to register with the Home Office in Croydon. The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, is one of several religious leaders who will be there to meet them.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37674875>

BBC/Sky

BBC reports that the former ringing master at York Minster, Peter Sanderson, has appealed to the Dean for discussions so the bells can be "heard again" in the city after the 30 volunteer bell-ringers were told that ringing activity had "ceased with immediate effect" at a meeting last week. Speaking to *BBC York* the Dean, Viv Faull, said: "We have been working through all our

teams of staff and volunteers to make sure that things like security, health and safety and governance are in good order. I think everyone will acknowledge that ringing bells is something that needs to be done with particular attention to health and safety and security." Both Sky and BBC report there are more than 11,000 signatures on a petition to reinstate the bells.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-37667000>
<http://news.sky.com/story/public-clamour-after-bell-ringers-given-heave-ho-10619643>

Mail

Report that a couple had to change the venue of their wedding 15 minutes before the ceremony because of a woodworm treatment. An alternative venue had to be found after contractors working in St Mary the Virgin in Great Brington, Northamptonshire treated damaged pews with chemicals. The couple were eventually married 90 minutes later at St Andrew's Church in Harlestone.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3842050/Woodworm-ruined-wedding-day-Church-ruled-unsafe-15-minutes-couple-marry.html>

Tel

Reports that free Syrian Army rebels backed by Turkish airstrikes have captured the Syrian town of Dabiq from Islamic State militants, averting, for now, the terror group's long-promised battle of the apocalypse. Far from being a prolonged battle, the fight for Dabiq was over within hours, monitors say. Dabiq, a town of fewer than 4,000 people in the northern Aleppo countryside, just six miles from the Turkish border, is named in an apocalyptic Islamic prophecy as the site of a final battle between Christianity and Islam.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/16/syrian-rebels-seize-symbolic-town-of-dabiq-from-isil/>

Guard

Feature profile of the Revd Richard Coles, under the headline, "From pop stardom and battles with drugs and depression to Radio 4 regular, he's no ordinary vicar."

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/oct/16/richard-coles-miracles-masterchef-radio-4>

Exp

Report on a 'cheeky' statue of St George killing a dragon, one of a collection of statutes of saints brought by a vicar, and featured on last night's edition of the BBC's Antiques Roadshow.

<http://www.express.co.uk/showbiz/tv-radio/721829/Antiques-Roadshow-vicar-St-George-statue>

(Sunday) Observer, Christian Today, Premier Reports on a survey showing that around one in three people in Britain would want to be given a Bible if they were about to be stranded on a desert island. The poll of 2,042 people was commissioned by the Church and Media Network ahead of its 40th conference which will take place later this week.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/15/desert-island-discs-bible-radio-4>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Third-of-Brits-would-want-Bible-if-stranded-on-desert-island>

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