



*Bishop John Neill and Canon Ginnie Kennerley following a service in Christ Church Cathedral marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women in the Church of Ireland. Report in this issue (Photo: David Wynne)*

## **‘Our parishes can provide refuge’- Bishop of Derry and Raphoe**

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe Ken Good has called on the Governments, north and south, to get their acts together on the Syrian refugee crisis, saying the Church of Ireland’s network of 450 parishes is “in a position to offer on-the-

ground welcome and support to refugee families” right now.

The Bishop made the comments in his Presidential address to the Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Synod at An Grianán Hotel, Burt, on Tuesday, October 20.

“Frustration’s been expressed at the time it’s taking governments to devise a coherent plan to deal effectively with this crisis. It is, of course, essential that they plan and decide carefully, but equally there is an urgency to this crisis, especially with winter approaching,” he said.

“The Church of Ireland, with its network of 450 parishes spread right across this island, is in a position to offer on-the-ground welcome and support to refugee families.

“The Church of Ireland has already written to governments in both jurisdictions on this island indicating our willingness engage with plans to support refugees coming to Ireland. For our part, the parishes of the Derry and Raphoe Dioceses, I feel sure, will be eager to be part of any solution,” he added.

“The refugee crisis clearly poses an enormous challenge, but it also offers the churches – and others – a remarkable opportunity for generosity, for hospitality and for compassion. As Christians, we should embrace this opportunity,” said the Bishop.

Elsewhere in his address the Bishop announced 2016 has been designated a ‘Year of Opportunity’ by the Church of Ireland and would be a chance for parishioners and clergy to tackle a number of major challenges head on.

Dwindling, ageing and cash-strapped parishes are challenges that can be addressed, he said.

“We’re focusing on three challenges/opportunities in particular. The challenge of numbers of people involved in church life, which we believe provides an opportunity for mission; The challenge of the age profile in many churches, which provides an opportunity to encourage children and young people; The challenge of financial pressure in many parishes, which provides an opportunity for generosity – in its many manifestations.”

## **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination of women in C of I marked by Dublin service**

Twenty–five years of women’s ministry in the Church of Ireland was celebrated at a service in Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday morning (October 18). The service took place close to the anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Canon Ginnie Kennerley who was ordained in the cathedral on October 21 1990 by Archbishop Donald Caird. Assisting on that day was Archbishop Henry McAdoo and Bishop John Neill, then Bishop of Tuam and who later became Archbishop of Dublin.

Bishop Neill had been an advocate for the ordination of women to the priesthood and returned to Christ Church on Sunday, St Luke’s Day, to preach on the anniversary. He highlighted Luke’s role in painting a picture of Mary, mother of Jesus, and her vocation. In many ways the figure of Mary as presented by St Luke gave an image of what the Christian priesthood is about, he contended.

“The Christian priest has often been portrayed as an icon of Christ – a person through whom others

should be able to see Christ. Unfortunately this theme has sometimes been used to assert that the priest must be male, and yet the incarnation is about human nature rather than male gender. Equally the figure of Mary can be seen as an icon of priesthood balancing this – as one enabling others to see Jesus, as he is brought forth into the world,” he explained.

The Bishop recalled the Lambeth Conference of 1988 when he was involved in seeking the admission of women to the episcopate. He said one of the most moving speeches he heard was from the first woman priest he had ever met, Nan Peete from the Episcopal Church of the United States of America.

“Her theme was quite simply “The time has come...” The more I reflected on that phrase that she used again and again, the more I realised that there is a right time for change. Patterns in the world change, wrongs are exposed, new challenges are thrown up, and then we look into Scripture and tradition using our God-given reason and we realise that it all makes sense. It is not looking for proof texts, but striving to see the bigger picture of what God is saying to us today,” he said.

Bishop Neill added that the emergence of the voice for admission of women to the priesthood was because “the time had come”. Society had changed, the role of women had changed. “Yet the seeds of those very changes were deep, even if hidden, in the Christian tradition itself. So often a false dichotomy is set up between the spirit of the age and the spirit of God. Yes, there may well be a clash, there can be so much that is negative in the spirit of the age, greed, prejudice and hedonism, but that is not the full story. The spirit of the age also bears many of the signs of a response to the God of Love, even if totally unconscious of the fact,” he stated.

Bishop Neill gave thanks for the Ministry of Canon Kennerley and the fact that men and women now serve happily alongside each other in the Church of Ireland and that many hold significant positions of leadership.

“There will always be differing responses to a developing tradition that is at the heart of the Church of Christ, but it is vital that we take time and stay together as we seek God’s way forward. The very same issues arose more recently in matters surrounding remarriage following divorce, and today painfully in issues of human

sexuality,” he said. He concluded by saying: “In the midst of all the confusions facing the churches in the world today, let it be our prayer that we may hold on to that vision – praying the Lord of the Harvest to send forth many to bring healing and reconciliation to a broken church and a broken world”.

Text of Bishop Neill’s sermon at -

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2015/10/The-Time-Had-Come-25th-Anniversary-of-the-Ordination-of-Women-to-the-Priesthood-Celebrated>

## **East Belfast Mission Gears Up for Christmas Hampers**

East Belfast Mission's Neighbours in Need project will soon get into full flow.

Every Christmas food hampers are delivered to the needy in in the community. In first year of the Neighbours in Need project they delivered around 200 hampers. This figure had steadily grown and last year they delivered 726 hampers just in time for Christmas.



The Mission always needs food donations, help to pack the hampers and people to deliver. If you have time to lend a hand or can offer donations, please contact Sandie Gallagher on 028 9045 8560.

Donations of food items need to be at the Mission by Monday 30th November and packing day this year is Saturday 5th December.

East Belfast Mission is at ***Skainos Square, 239 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1AF***



## **Workshops in worship for Connor clergy**

Clergy in Connor Diocese have had the opportunity to avail of valuable resource ideas at a series of three archdeaconry meetings during October.

At the meetings, Canon Peter McDowell, diocesan liturgical officer, gave a presentation of liturgical resources to help enrich worship from the season of All Saints to Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Jill Hamilton, Connor Children's Project Officer, outlined some Messy Church themes and gave a demonstration of imaginative games, crafts and activities. These activities have proved to be great fun with clergy getting into making donkey faces in Ballycastle, and some artistic edible models of Mary in Jordanstown.

As part of this series of roadshows, parishes are also being encouraged to share resources.

## **Diocesan curate licensed for Cork**

On Friday, 9th October, the Reverend Anne Skuse was licensed as a Diocesan Curate by the



***With the Reverend Anne Skuse and the Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton at Anne's Licensing as a Diocesan Curate in the Church of Saint Mark, Kilbonane, were (l-r) Mr Billy Skuse, Amy Deignan, Ian Skuse, the Reverend Anne Skuse, the Bishop, Robbie Skuse, Niamh O'Regan and Peter Skuse.***

Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton during a celebration of the Eucharist in the Church of St Mark, Kilbonane (Aherla), County Cork. Anne has now transferred from non-stipendiary to whole time stipendiary ministry. The preacher at the Service was the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, the Right Reverend Michael Burrows.

Anne will serve as a curate, half-time in Moviddy Union of Parishes and half-time in hospital chaplaincy ministry based at the Cork University Hospital, the largest hospital in the State, where the chaplain is Canon Daniel Nuzum. The team also provides chaplaincy services to the Bon Secours Hospital Cork, and to Marymount University Hospital and Hospice. The small church was full to overflowing and many of the congregation joined in the Service in a marquee outside. The organist at the Service was Colin Nicholls. Afterwards the congregation adjourned to Cloughduv GAA Club for supper.

## **Portora Royal School toasts Venerable John Sullivan**

The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough has said Churches need to ask what “religious boundary-crossers” can teach them about how welcome they make “border-crossers” and what blessing they give them on departure and arrival.

In an address proposing the toast at Portora Royal School, Archbishop Michael Jackson, a past pupil of the Co Fermanagh school spoke



about one of its most famous students, Jesuit priest, Venerable John Sullivan.

John Sullivan was a member of the Church of Ireland; his mother was a Roman Catholic and his father was a member of the Church of Ireland.

The Jesuit priest who was renowned within his own lifetime for his healing powers was baptised in St George's Church, Hardwick Place in Dublin.



### ***Portora Royal School***

The son of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, he became a student at Portora in 1873 when the school was *the* place to study Classics and many student of Portora went on to Trinity College Dublin and he higher echelons of the law, the civil service in Ireland or London or abroad.

In his address, Archbishop Jackson considered how John Sullivan, “the Portoran ... living successfully in London” became a Jesuit priest.

After leaving school he trained as a barrister in London and, being comfortably off, travelled abroad to visit the scenes and the sites of which he would have known in the Classical texts that he read in Portora.

On 21 December 1896 John Sullivan was received into the Roman Catholic Church; and he took his first vows as a Member of the Jesuit

Order on 8 September 1902. He was ordained in Milltown Park in Dublin on 28 July 1907 and went straight to Clongowes to teach.

Clongowes was effectively to be his home from then until his death on 19 February 1933 in a Dublin Nursing Home. He also spent a five-year period as rector of the Jesuit House in Rathfarnham Castle, Dublin during his lifetime.

Recalling the service in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin in June this year to recognise the life of John Sullivan, the Archbishop paid tribute to the significant number of staff members and pupils from Portora who attended and were joined for the service by students from Clongowes Woods College, where John Sullivan spent most of his life as a Jesuit.

Dr Jackson said the link between Portora Royal School and Clongowes Wood College had a very positive association through the Joyce-Beckett Literary Award. It had “transcended the Border, at a time when the Border was a real feature in the geographical psychology of Irish life”.

“Crossing the Border; heading Down South; going Up North – many of these phrases now

have no fear-content. Once they had,” the Church of Ireland Primate commented.

He also paid tribute to the courage of young students from both schools who were willing to cross the border, “particularly when the Clongowes boys were in Enniskillen laying a wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday year after year”.

He said this gesture was a powerful symbol of hope at a time when hope eluded many people, not least in Enniskillen itself.

“Mercifully, things are different today and we trust that they will continue different. It is our duty to future generations to ensure this,” Archbishop Jackson said.

Speaking about Fr Sullivan’s life as a priest, he said the Jesuit “manifested a simplicity that bore no relationship to his earlier life and he seems to have contrived hardship beyond what many would have regarded as necessary or fruitful”.

He said his reputation for holiness grew as did people’s attribution to him of the capacity for healing and miraculous intervention in their illnesses.

“He seems also, however, to have distinguished between situations of illness where he *could* intervene and where he *could not* in ways that brought about change. This remains part of his deep, innocent honesty.”

Mulling the contribution to Churches of people like Fr Sullivan – the religious boundary-crossers – Archbishop Jackson said the priest was someone who as a boy from the Republic of Ireland attended a school in Northern Ireland as a member of the Church of Ireland and became a priest and a Jesuit, spending exactly half of his life as a Protestant layman and half of his life as a Roman Catholic priest.

He highlighted that those who have advocated his cause, like Fr Conor Harper SJ, would argue that the John Sullivan phenomenon can be a genuine pointer to the holding together of difference, a sign of ecumenical respectfulness and a form of spiritual reconciliation in a post-Troubles Ireland, if we can only see it.

Referring to the Vatican’s elevation of Fr Sullivan to the status of Venerable, Archbishop Jackson said “it is surely remarkable that the cause of an Old Portoran is being advanced at the same time as that of Oscar Romero, an international name



and another, yet different, advocate of the poor and downtrodden, martyred in El Salvador, South America.”

“Both point to the poor and the needy as the focus of human conscience and of God’s care and grace”.

## **BBC Radio Ulster School Choir Of The Year set to return**

The BBC Radio Ulster School Choir Of The Year is set to return to the airwaves next year, it has been announced.

Following on from the huge success of the first series, the competition - organised in association with the Ulster Youth Choir and supported by the Arts Council Of Northern Ireland (ACNI) - will be back in 2016 in search of the very best primary and post-primary school choirs in Northern Ireland.

This year’s winners Pond Park Primary School, Lisburn and Grosvenor Grammar School from Belfast (pictured) beat off strong competition from 62 other competing choirs during a live final in the Ulster Hall in April, and have been helping BBC Radio Ulster celebrate its 40th anniversary

featuring across a range of the station's programming and events.

[BBC Radio](#) Ulster School Choir Of The Year is part of [BBC](#) Music NI, which sees [BBC](#) in Northern Ireland support the broadcaster's strongest commitment to music in 30 years. As part of the [BBC](#) Music initiative, BBC Northern Ireland is playing its part in shaping sustained music output alongside a wave of new programmes, innovative partnerships and ground-breaking music initiatives.

Fergus Keeling, Head of [Radio](#) for BBC Northern Ireland said: "I am thrilled, once again, that [BBC Radio](#) Ulster/Foyle will be at the forefront of showcasing and developing new, young musical talent. I suspect we will have even more schools participate this year in the [BBC Radio](#) Ulster School Choir of the Year which should make for a thrilling final."

Ciaran Scullion, Head of Music, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, says: "The Arts Council is delighted to support the second year of the [BBC Radio](#) Ulster School Choir of the Year competition in association with The Ulster Youth Choir. This competition offers a fantastic opportunity for schools to engage and participate

in the arts, nurturing a love of music and developing untapped talent in our young people. This last year's competition was an outstanding success and I would encourage all schools across the region to get involved in the 2016 competition."

Shane Farren, Manager of the Ulster Youth Choir, says: "UYC is delighted this prestigious competition will run again in 2016. The standard of choral singing in our schools is exceptional and this competition provides a perfect platform for young singers in Northern Ireland."

Details on how to enter BBC Radio Ulster School Choir Of The Year and full terms and conditions can be found [here](#).

Entries are invited from all primary and post-primary schools in Northern Ireland only. There will be two age categories:

- Primary Schools up to and including 11 years of age
- Post-Primary Schools up to and including 19 years of age

The children's ages are taken to be as on 1st September 2015. For the purpose of this competition, the maximum number of choir

members is 60 and teachers may not form part of the school choir.

Initial entry to the competition will entail submission of a CD/DVD or MP3 recording of their choir singing two contrasting pieces of their choice. The pieces can be either accompanied or unaccompanied. The combined recordings must not exceed eight minutes.

Hard copies of CDs/MP3s (two copies) should be sent clearly marked to: BBC Radio Ulster School Choir of the Year, Ulster Youth Choir, Millennium Court Arts Centre, William Street, Portadown, BT62 3NX. Entries are to be received by Friday 18 December 2015, and those shortlisted will be notified in January 2016.

Recordings of the choir must be of one take. Entries showing evidence of editing or digital enhancement such as layering and the use of auto-tuning will be disqualified. If a school chooses to use pre-recorded accompaniment this must be purely instrumental and not contain any vocals. Recordings must be of the current school choir and not of choir members who have now left the school.

<http://newsonnews.com/story/191015-1243>

## **Cameron rebukes C of E bishops over refugee letter**

David Cameron has vented his frustration with the Church of England over Syria by calling on bishops to make “an in-depth intervention” to acknowledge the £1bn in aid the UK has provided to refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries.

The prime minister, who announced that Britain is to admit 1,000 refugees by Christmas, said that the Anglican bishops were wrong to criticise him for ignoring their plea to admit 50,000 refugees.

Cameron criticised the Church of England after bishops released a private letter to the prime minister in which they called on him to agree to a dramatic increase in the number of Syrian refugees over the next five years – from 20,000 to 50,000. See more at:

[http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/oct/19/david-cameron-rebukes-church-of-england-bishops-over-refugee-letter?utm\\_source=Daily+Media+Digest&utm\\_campaign=2133fbaf8f-&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_296e14724b-2133fbaf8f-248597725&ct=t%28%29](http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/oct/19/david-cameron-rebukes-church-of-england-bishops-over-refugee-letter?utm_source=Daily+Media+Digest&utm_campaign=2133fbaf8f-&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_296e14724b-2133fbaf8f-248597725&ct=t%28%29)

## Media digest

### **Mail/Exp/Tel/BBC/Guard/ITV**

The Prime Minister has said that the 84 bishops who signed a letter calling on the Government to take 50,000 Syrian refugees, were 'wrong'.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr Cameron said the first 1,000 refugees would arrive in Britain before Christmas and said the bishops should devote more energy towards championing Britain's stance on foreign aid. A number of reports note that Jeremy Corbyn called on the Prime Minister to go further than the 20,000 refugees the government has agreed to take in.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3280169/Church-England-bishops-wrong-urge-Britain-50-000-refugees-Syrian-conflict-PM-says.html>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3279493/Every-Syrian-refugee-accepted-Britain-cost-taxpayers-23-420-year.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3279493/Every-Syrian-refugee-accepted-Britain-cost-taxpayers-23-420-year.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3279493/Every-Syrian-refugee-accepted-Britain-cost-taxpayers-23-420-year.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/613181/David-Cameron-vows-wont-take-more-Syrians>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/11941580/Each-Syrian-refugee-to-cost-Britain-24000-a-year.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34574668>  
<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/oct/19/david-cameron-rebukes-church-of-england-bishops-over-refugee-letter>  
<http://www.itv.com/news/2015-10-19/corbyn-calls-on-cameron-to-take-more-syrian-refugees/>

## **FT**

Reports that the Chancellor is seeking further cuts in welfare spending, including disability benefits. The savings will help pay for the fight against organised crime and illegal migration and to boost international diplomacy. The article states that Mr Osborne is seeking £20bn of further savings in real terms by 2019-20.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fec064e6-73f4-11e5-bdb1-e6e4767162cc.html#axzz3p53TWfwi>

## **BBC**

The Government has defended its cuts in tax credits saying the reforms will save taxpayers £15bn a year. From April, the threshold at which tax credits begin to be withdrawn will fall from £6,420 to £3,850, and people's credit entitlement over this amount will be reduced more steeply. Letters informing claimants of the changes are due to be sent out shortly before Christmas.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-34577535>

## **Times/Mail/Guard/Ind**

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

An alleged serial killer appeared in court yesterday accused of drugging and murdering four men. Stephen Port, 40, allegedly poisoned the men before dumping their bodies in and around St Margaret's churchyard in Barking, east London, over a 15-month period.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4590790.ece>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3280041/From-smiling-schoolboy-posing-topless-Facebook-Male-escort-fatally-poisoned-four-men.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3280041/From-smiling-schoolboy-posing-topless-Facebook-Male-escort-fatally-poisoned-four-men.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3280041/From-smiling-schoolboy-posing-topless-Facebook-Male-escort-fatally-poisoned-four-men.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/oct/19/man-court-charged-murder-poisoning-four-men-stephen-port-barking-london>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/stephen-port-man-accused-of-drugging-and-murdering-four-men-he-met-on-gay-websites-appears-in-court-a6699926.html>

## **Mirror**

Reports that a bank is x-raying safe deposit boxes in an effort to locate church silver deposited with it. The silver, including a communion cup dating back to the English Civil War belongs to St Veep parish church in Cornwall. A spokesman for Lloyds Bank in



London apologised for the delay in locating the three pieces of silverware.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/bank-loses-church-treasure-dating-6662385>

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