



***Walkers on St Kevin's Way in Glendalough –  
Photograph by Nigel Waugh.***

## **Discover where earth and heaven meet on the Glendalough Camino**

Seasoned hill walkers and tentative trail finders of all levels of fitness will be invited to take to the

Wicklow Mountains next month for the Come&C Camino. Dublin and Glendalough's Come&C discipleship programme continues to grow with the development of the Camino of Glendalough. A special event will take place in Glendalough and on St Kevin's Way on Sunday November 6.

A spokesperson for the dioceses said, "Within the bounds of our United Dioceses, we are blessed with the sacred space of the Glendalough Monastic City and its environs. Glendalough can best be described as a liminal place, where heaven and earth meet and visitors are afforded the serene opportunity to bask in the glory of God. Many may visit Glendalough annually (it is amongst the top tourist sites in Ireland) but not all would be strictly speaking best described as pilgrims. According to Sally Welch in her book *Making a Pilgrimage*, "Pilgrimage is a meaningful journey to a sacred place". She continues: "The essence of pilgrimage is a journey made in a spirit of searching, with the openness to what the journey can teach."

"Fully aware of our call to be disciples, and of our instruction to journey with Christ, Camino organisers are inviting you to consider the example of Saint Kevin, and join people from all

over the dioceses on Sunday November 6 for a series of journeys. Routes have been prepared to suit different levels of physical fitness and spiritual zeal. Resources will be provided for the walks, which will promote holy reflection and contemplation. “In this respect, we are confident that your joy will be increased and that you will be drawn into a ‘spacious place’ (Psalm 18) by the hand of the Lord” .

The event will begin at both ends of St Kevin’s Way. Services will take place simultaneously in St Kevin’s Church, Hollywood and St John’s, Laragh at 9.30 am.

Following the service in Hollywood, pilgrims will have the choice of making the 30km journey by foot, bicycle or car. A booklet will be provided to aid the journey. Those that travel by car will be able to stop at certain points in their journey where St Kevin’s Way meets the R756. Walkers should expect to take at least six hours to complete this route.

Those attending St John’s, Laragh, on the day, will be provided with a booklet outlining walks around the Monastic City and along the Green Road. There will also be an opportunity to take a shorter walk along St Kevin’s Way from the

Wicklow Gap to Glendalough. This is approximately 12km and will take approximately two hours to complete. A bus will be provided to take adventurers to Wicklow Gap.

St John's, Laragh, will act as an information base on the day and participants are free to join in activities at any time that is suitable to them.

Weather permitting, the day will conclude with a gathering at the Upper Lake in Glendalough for a service of praise and thanksgiving at 3.30 pm.

The November event follows on from a Confirmation Camino based on the Come&C 5 Marks Challenge involving confirmation candidates from three Glendalough parishes. Young people from Rathdrum & Derralossary with Glenealy, Castlemacadam, Ballinatone and Aughtrim and Arklow, Inch and Kilbride will participate in the camino day this weekend reflecting on the pilgrimage and the Five Marks of Mission.

## **Belfast's Manx Dean on Manx radio**

St Anne's will feature on Manx Radio's afternoon show on Friday October 14 when Steward Tony

Kelly chats about some of the Cathedral's most historic, unique and beautiful features.

Two presenters from Manx Radio were in Belfast as guests of Visit Belfast on Thursday September 29, accompanied by two representatives of the Isle of Man airline Citywing.

After a very informative tour around the Cathedral when Tony took the opportunity to talk about why he loves the place, the guests met and chatted to the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, who himself has strong Manx connections!

The feature on St Anne's will be aired on Manx Radio sometime between 2pm and 6pm on October 14. You will be able to listen live at <http://www.manxradio.com/>

## **Belfast seminar on responding to young LGBT Christians**

*"How do I support a young LGBT+ person in my youth group. Human sexuality is such a controversial topic in the church – how can I approach it positively? Is it better not to talk about it?..."*

A workshop in Belfast on October 22 will consider what it looks like to offer an effective pastoral response to LGBT+ young people in the Church and within a wider Christian context.

The workshop will be led by Sally Hitchiner.

This event will be of particular interest to those working with youth and young adults, family members of young people who identify as LGBT +, those involved in conversations on this topic within the Churches, and LGBT+ Christian young people and their friends..

Event Date: Saturday, 22 October, 2016 (All day) at Knock Methodist Centre, 17 Knock Road.

Email: [mail@acceptingsexuality.org](mailto:mail@acceptingsexuality.org) A donation on the day of £10 (salaried) / £5 (unsalaried) to cover expenses is suggested. Light lunch / refreshments will be served.

<http://www.irishmethodist.org/event/life-giving-event-response-young-lgbt-christians>

## **Making history talk in Fermanagh**

A cross-community meeting will see Dr Brian Feeney and Senator Michael McDowell reflect on

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THE PROTESTANT  
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the 1916 Easter Rising. Alex Kane will chair the event.

The event is organised by a number of Fermanagh churches and Co Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge and will take place in the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, on 13 October at 7.30pm.

Dr Brian Feeney is a noted commentator as well as being Head of History at St Mary's College, Belfast. Senator Michael McDowell was former Irish Attorney General and Minister for Justice. He is also the grandson of Eoin McNeill. Alex Kane is a noted political writer and commentator. *Making History Talk: Understanding 1916* is the latest in a series of public events organized to reflect on major events during this decade of

historic commemorations. It has arisen out of dialogue that has taken place between County Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge, the Church of Ireland Diocese of Clogher, as well as Enniskillen Methodists and Presbyterians.

## **South Sudanese bishop to advise Archbishop of Canterbury on Anglican Communion Affairs**

The Bishop of Kajo-Keji in South Sudan, the Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, is to become the Archbishop of Canterbury's new adviser for Anglican Communion Affairs, Lambeth Palace announced today. Bishop Anthony will succeed Bishop Precious Omuku, who retired in April after holding the post for two years. Bishop Anthony will move to London with his wife Jane and youngest daughter Joy at the end of October.

"I am absolutely delighted that Bishop Anthony is joining the team at Lambeth," Archbishop Justin Welby said. "He brings the experience of his ministry in one of the most challenging provinces in the Anglican Communion where he has faithfully served the church as a pastor and teacher. Throughout his ministry he has engaged





***Bishop Anthony Poggo is to be the Archbishop of Canterbury's new Adviser for Anglican Communion Affairs***

with the profound issues we face in many parts of the Communion, where famine, war, and violent ethnic tensions destabilise society and leave whole communities living in poverty.

“He is well known and respected throughout the Communion and I am most grateful to Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul [the primate of the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan] for releasing Bishop Anthony as a gift to the wider church.

“His appointment provides a necessary voice and perspective from the global south in the team at Lambeth. I look forward to working with Bishop Anthony to strengthen our relationships around the Provinces at a significant time in the life of the Communion.”

Before his ordination in 1995, Bishop Anthony worked with Scripture Union. From 2002 he served with Across – a South Sudanese organisation committed to holistic community transformation – becoming its executive director two years later. In 2007 he was elected Bishop of Kajo-Keji.

“I am delighted to accept Archbishop Justin Welby’s invitation and appointment to join the team at Lambeth Palace,” Bishop Anthony said. “I look forward to working together with colleagues at Lambeth to support the Archbishop of Canterbury in his ministry.

“I appreciate the support from Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul in releasing me from our current role in Kajo-Keji so as to make a contribution in the global Anglican Communion. Jane, Joy and I are excited at this next phase of our ministry.”

Bishop Anthony and Jane have two other daughters: Grace and Faith.

A Lambeth Palace spokesman said that Bishop Anthony's appointment followed "an extensive selection process which attracted applications from across the Anglican Communion."

## **Sinfulness is failure to love and failure to be merciful, Archbishop Martin tells legal profession**

The role of the legal system is to "independently and vigorously" ensure that men, women and children, whether they are citizens or not, have equitable access to what they need to realise their God-given potential, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said in his homily at Mass for the start of the new law term.

In St Michan's Church, Halston Street, Dublin, the Archbishop of Dublin told representatives of the legal profession that the task of public authorities is to ensure equity, to protect the weak and to curb the arrogance of those who exercise power.



Referring to Pope Francis' publication, *The name of God is Mercy*, Archbishop Martin said the book's title was not just catchy; it said something about the very essence of being a Christian.

If the name of God is mercy, then we have to understand that we can only begin to understand God when we allow ourselves to encounter his mercy, he said.

"We cannot understand God if we exclude ourselves from an encounter with mercy through our own feelings of self-security and self-superiority and self-assigned status," he warned.

Describing God as one who unconditionally reaches out, the Archbishop said the Christian God reveals himself not like a pagan's god, who dwells in the fearful dimensions of creation.

“Our God is one who cares and sustains the beauty and harmony of his creation which he created in love.”

He added that the Holy Spirit brings the gift of communion and interaction, respect and harmony between every aspect of creation. “Where communication fails, division begins,” he underlined.

Elsewhere in his homily on Monday morning, Archbishop Martin asked how, if the name of God is mercy, we ended up with the idea of a harsh condemnatory God who only wishes to judge us in our sinfulness and humiliate us.

“If we have created such a God then we misunderstand both God and sin. Sinfulness is not about breaking arbitrary rules: sinfulness is failure to love and failure to be merciful.”

“If sinfulness is failure to be merciful then many who are quick to condemn sinners, may well be in a category of sinners all of their own.”

He highlighted that communication in the Spirit is not just about techniques. It is about authenticity in relationships.

“The Spirit fosters that communication which is at the basis of unity. When human cells grow in an isolated way from the body they mutate in a cancerous self-serving and self-preserving way.”

“When a splintering of interests began to infect political and social culture – or indeed within the Church – then pernicious divisions appear and the patterned growth which is of the nature of any living organism begins to break down and further detrimental inequalities emerge.”

“Where communication breaks down within the human community then selfish interests begin to dominate. Growth with equity will never be fostered when the few are favoured and included and others are left on the margins and excluded.”

The Archbishop stressed that a new language of communication within society was needed, where every individual can attain voice and ownership in dignity and in which all have a sense of being treated and respected in the depth of their personal identity.

“Mercy recognises and embraces the dignity of the other and can transform the most troubled and disturbed hearts.”

“This Spirit-filled communication will embrace beyond all human borders: migrants will become brothers and sisters, homeless will encounter human warmth, voiceless will find a hearing, the poor will enjoy sustenance, the wounded will receive healing, sinners will encounter forgiveness and be welcomed back and become loving men and women though experiencing love,” he said.

## **News briefs**

**+++ Developing in Prayer** - Saturday 22nd October, 9.30 – 11.00am in Fivemiletown Parish. Revd Canon Raymond Fox has been invited to speak about Contemplative Prayer, also called Prayer Of The Inner Heart. He will speak at church on one Sunday in the Autumn and also conduct two practical workshops where he will speak more about prayer and make time for prayer. To book contact the Parish Office on 028 895 22422 or [stjohnsfivemiletown@btconnect.com](mailto:stjohnsfivemiletown@btconnect.com)

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

**The new leader of the SDLP is 33 years old. He says it's time for Gerry Adams and the old guard to move on**

The Journal.ie

<http://www.thejournal.ie/sdlp-eastwood-3003580-Oct2016/>

### **Mail**

Diary item that Katherine Roberts, the daughter of the Archbishop of Canterbury has given birth to her first child, a boy named Elijah. For a middle name, she and her husband, IT consultant Mike, have chosen Justin in tribute to her dad.

### **Responsible Investor**

Reports on Sir Andreas Whittam Smith's announcement that he will be stepping down as First Church Estates Commissioner next summer.

[https://www.responsible-investor.com/home/article/ri\\_people\\_appointments\\_october\\_3/](https://www.responsible-investor.com/home/article/ri_people_appointments_october_3/)

### **Horticultural Week**



Reports that London garden centre The Chelsea Gardener is planning to take over the Church Commissioners' Fulham Palace Garden Centre which has been empty since 2014 after the Prince's Trust charity closed it down. After being empty for more than two years, The Prince's Trust sold the centre for £1.275m to the Church Commissioners in May 2016, saying the site "wasn't financially viable".

<http://www.hortweek.com/chelsea-gardener-set-fulham-palace-garden-centre/retail/article/1410904>

### **Christian Today**

Reports that Christianity could lose its place as the majority faith in Britain, a new poll by the Conservative peer Lord Aschcroft reveals. The former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, polled more than 8000 voters in his annual August survey, including a question about religious affiliation. The number of people identifying as Christian has fallen from 56 per cent five years ago in 2011 to 51.4 per cent this year. The results are reported in Counting Religion in Briton.

### **Premier**

Reports that the Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa has voted against the introduction of blessing services for same-sex marriages. In a statement released on the Church's website, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba expressed his disappointment over the result of a synod vote about LGBT marriage unions in the Anglican Church in Southern Africa. The province covers Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. *Also see [Anglican Communion News](#) report.*

### **Times**

Diary item based on an interview the Revd Richard Coles has given to the *Radio Times* on his advice to Tom Hollander on the set of *Rev.* <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cut-from-the-same-cloth-tsd2fsbj6>

### **FT**

Book Review *Faithonomics: Religion and the Free Market* by Torkel Brekke  
<https://www.ft.com/content/f07ebe5e-864b-11e6-a29c-6e7d9515ad15>

### **Comment**

Spectator: Rod Little "Why does Justin Welby want us to understand jihadis?"

<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2016/10/justin-welby-want-us-understand-jihadis/>

## **Blogs**

**CofE Comms:** Bringing worship to the smartphone generation

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151288487812/bringing-worship-to-the-smartphone-generation>

**threads:** Is Christianity too middle class?

<https://www.threadsuk.com/is-christianity-too-middle-class>

**Stephen Cottrell:** Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella

<http://www.stephencottrell.org/pilgrimage/2016/10/02/day-twenty-two-horses-and-turkeys/>

**Michael Sadgrove:** Evensong

[http://northernwoolgatherer.blogspot.co.uk/  
2016/10/evensong.html](http://northernwoolgatherer.blogspot.co.uk/2016/10/evensong.html)

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