



Annual New Law Term Service

The annual New Law Term Service took place in St Michan's Church, Dublin 7, this morning (Monday October 5). Archbishop Michael Jackson presided with the Archdeacon of Dublin, the Ven David Pierpoint. Also in attendance was the Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, the Very Revd Victor Stacey and the sermon was preached by the Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Gregory Dunstan.

The large congregation included Chief Justice Susan Denham and the Northern Irish Chief Justice, the Rt Hon Lord Justice Gillen as well as members of the Irish Judiciary, An Garda Síochána, the Defence Forces, the Diplomatic Corps and many from the legal profession. There were also visiting judges from Northern Ireland, Scotland and England and Wales. The choir was from The King's Hospital School.

In his sermon, Dean Dunstan focused on Romans 15:7: 'Welcome one another, therefore'. The Dean said that through this passage Paul had provided the grammar with which to address questions which test the identity and cohesion of community. In relation to human sexuality, he said that two positions, founded on the interpretation of Scripture, had reached opposite conclusions but Paul's 'welcome one another' restored to its place the commandment of love and committed us to living together in courtesy and consideration until Christ leads us through.

He suggested that Paul's words could guide us through relationships with those of differing religious traditions. He said that while the differences between the religious traditions should not be denied, in history judging and despising had led to terrible things. "Yet the

theological imperative of the one God and the realities of our interrelationships in the Twenty–First Century compel us to welcome one another if we are not to live in separation but flourish together. If we address with Paul’s reasoning a Europe fearful of Muslim immigration, Christian compassion compels our welcome. But those whom we welcome are also enjoined to ‘welcome’ the societies to which they come – to make their home in them, play their part in them and contribute to them,” he stated.

Dean Dunstan also examined the contemporary European state which he described as secular, culturally diverse and bereft of the unifying influence of any dominant religious tradition. “Can Paul’s ‘welcome one another’ hold even where its theological foundation is eclipsed? It must, because the law, prescribing and proscribing, cannot do it all. We cannot relate by regulation. Nor will we make progress if our key relationships are the subject only of endless arm–wrestling. We will thrive only if we can welcome one another graciously. For again, on this Island, conflicting truths are held with conviction. Terrible things have been done. No easy resolution is available. And there are conflicting interests in the life of any state. But to flourish together, we must learn to welcome one another across the differences that divide. If we

do, we may find them not quite so divisive after all," he concluded.

Irish Church reformers call for re-think on contraception, gay marriage

Groups representing the Irish faithful are among a host of international Catholic reform movements who have told Pope Francis that the Church must urgently revise its teaching on contraception, communion for the divorced and gay relationships.

Irish Independent - The Association of Catholics in Ireland and We Are Church Ireland, along with more than 50 other international Catholic reform groups, have written to the Pontiff.

They have also appealed to the 279 bishops from more than 120 nations participating in the synod to "Follow Pope Francis's way of dialogue and reform".

However, on the eve of the formal opening of the synod, Pope Francis told the bishops there will be no change in the Church's attitude to gay marriage. On Saturday, Polish Monsignor Krzysztof Charamsa (43) lost his job at the

Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith after he revealed he is in a gay relationship.

In their letter, the Catholic reform groups accused the celibate prelates of not being fully representative of the lay faithful.

They suggested that the bishops were not well equipped to deal with the complexity of problems affecting modern families.

"If the divorced remarried person wishes to receive the Eucharist, he/she must be able to do so without any censorship, direct or indirect, by the Christian community," the letter stated.

The reform groups also called for "every regulation or discriminatory practice against homosexuals in Church and society to be challenged and opposed".

Bishop to address NI National Prayer Breakfast

Bishop Harold Miller will give the main address at the National Prayer Breakfast for Northern Ireland on Saturday 17 October in the Stormont Hotel, Belfast.

The event will bring together guest speakers, local government representatives, church and community leaders and Christians from across the country to pray for those in authority.

This is the second annual National Prayer Breakfast for MLAs (Members of the Legislative Assembly), church leaders and members of the churches.

Further details at -

<http://www.downanddromore.org/cmsfiles/moved/files/n/NatPrayerBkfastFlyer.pdf>

Cardinal Murphy O'Connor to speak at Kilkenny faith event

The patron saint of Kilkenny, St Canice, will be the focus of a new 'Light of Hope' project this month. The event, organised by St Canice's parish in Kilkenny, will be conducted each Wednesday during October and will take the form of discussions, prayer services, and audio visual events culminating in the 'Light of Hope' evening session.

The evening event will consist of a chaired talk and discussion by invited guest speakers



including the former Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor (above), who was and leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales until his retirement in April 2009.

The programme of events commences on 7 October when Sr Noelle Corscadden, leader of the Loreto Sisters worldwide, will speak on the topic 'Staying at the Table'.

A special Mass and ceremony will take place at the Loreto convent in Kilkenny city earlier in the day.

On 14 October, Trócaire's Humanitarian Coordinator, Kilkenny-native Conor O'Loughlin, will speak on the theme of 'Solidarity with the Stranger'.

Among the events taking place earlier in the day are a workshop run by Trócaire volunteers who have returned from abroad and a confirmation class from a local primary school.

The undoubted highlight of the programme comes on 21 October when the former Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, visits Kilkenny.

He will speak on the topic entitled 'Pope Francis: Witness to Mercy'.

The Cardinal will also celebrate Mass and bless the third Light of Hope Candle in St Canice's church.

The final speaker on 28 October will be Dr Breda Lynch who is a medieval church historian with the Office of Public Works in the Southeast.

She will speak on renewal, reform in the 'Medieval Irish Church: A Template for Today'.

A visit to Kennyswell for a prayer service as well as the showing of a film entitled 'Of Gods and

Men' will also take place as part of the conclusion of the project.

Birr Methodists share church with C of I neighbours



The Rev Clodagh Yambasu of Birr Methodist Church is pictured here giving a key to the church to Archdeacon Wayne Carney of St Brendan's Church of Ireland.

The interior of St Brendan's is being repainted over the next two months and the Church of Ireland congregation has been invited to share in

worship with their Methodist neighbours. The form of service will alternate between the two traditions.

Installations at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Two new Dignitaries were installed in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, last Sunday, October 4. Canon Peter Campion was installed as the cathedral's Precentor in succession to the late Canon Robert Reed. Canon Niall Sloane was installed as Chancellor in the place of Canon Patrick Lawrence who has retired.

The service of Choral Evensong was sung by the cathedral choir with members of the Past Choristers' Association. The Dean, the Very Revd Victor Stacey, presided.

The preacher was Canon Desmond Sinnamon, former Chancellor of the cathedral and former Rector of Taney where both Canon Campion and Canon Sloane served as Curates.

In his address Canon Sinnamon outlined the roles of Precentor and Chancellor in assisting and supporting the Dean in the cathedral. He



Canon Niall Sloane, Dean Victor Stacey and Canon Peter Champion.

also introduced the two new Canons. Canon Peter Champion had been Precentor in Christ Church Cathedral and is also Chaplain at the King's Hospital School. Canon Niall Sloane had been a minor Canon of St Patrick's and is Rector of Holy Trinity, Killiney. He welcomed them both to their new roles in the cathedral.

Canon Sinnamon also spoke of the role of the cathedral as being a place of embassy and hospitality. He said all who enter the cathedral go out as ambassadors of faith and said that all involved with the cathedral had a role in welcoming others.

Architect of both Waterford cathedrals recalled as bust of first World War field marshal unveiled

A bust of the oldest soldier on record to die in the first World War was yesterday unveiled alongside the memorial to the youngest documented casualty, and a fellow Waterford native, in a new acknowledgement of the thousands of Irish people who fell in that conflict.

Field Marshal [Earl Frederick Roberts](#) of Kandahar, Pretoria and Waterford died of pneumonia aged 82 while serving in France in 1914. A year later, Waterford-born [Private John Condon](#) died in Flanders at the age of just 14. Field Marshal Roberts, who was born in India but regarded as being from Waterford, got married in the city and spent much time there, was a great-grandson of renowned architect John Roberts, designer of both the Church of Ireland and Catholic cathedrals in Waterford as well as many other famous buildings.

Among the guests of honour at Sunday's ceremony was the British ambassador [Dominick Chilcott](#), who told the gathering that the Irish

Guards was founded in 1900 by Queen Victoria to mark the contribution of Irish soldiers to the second Boer War, possibly as a result of an idea of Field Marshal Roberts, who was one of the queen's most trusted military advisers.

Members of the regiment killed in the first World War included 68 men from Co Waterford. "Whatever the justification for that war and whatever you think about its causes, there's no longer any reason to shy away from remembering the loss of human life," Mr Chilcott said.

The unveiling of the bust was carried out by Lt Col [Alexander Turner](#), the current commanding officer of the Irish Guards regiment, which was led in its early days by Earl Roberts.

The event in Cathedral Square also commemorated the Irish Guardsmen from Waterford city and county who died, and coincided with the opening of a new exhibition at the Waterford Treasures Museum on the distinguished Roberts family.

Before the *Last Post* was sounded in Cathedral Square, wreaths were laid by Ambassador Chilcott, Lt Col [Stephen Ryan](#) of behalf of the Defence Forces; deputy mayor of Waterford John O'Leary; president of the Royal British

Legion Maj Gen the O'Morchoe; and Major Michael Keown on behalf of the Irish Guards.

Vatican Cricket Club to face Muslim XI, Anglican Church XI in series of matches

The [Vatican](#)'s increasingly high-profile cricket club has set the date for a highly symbolic first match against an all-Muslim team from Britain. In a series of matches this month, the St Peter's cricket club, made up of mostly South Asian Rome-based seminarians and priests, will also take on a team from Pope Francis's home town of Buenos Aires and get a chance of revenge against a Church of England XI. But it is the meeting with Mount Cricket Club from Batley, Yorkshire, on October 17 that is likely to attract the most attention, with the Church hoping it will make a small contribution to global inter-faith understanding.

“It is going to be Muslims and Catholics playing together, a bridge being made in sport between believers,” said Father Robert McCulloch, an Australian priest who was based in Pakistan for 34 years and helped organise the inter-faith

clash with help from the governor of Sind province in Pakistan, Ishrat-ul-Ibad Khan.

Most of Mount's players are of Pakistani heritage. "This is a point that is going to be picked up in countries where cricket is played," McCulloch added. "Pope Francis says walls are never solutions, bridges always are. What we are doing here is making a good bridge, a small counterbalance to a culture of violence throughout the world."

Established in 2013, the St Peter's club toured England last year where their matches included meetings with The Royal Household club based at Windsor Castle, an authors XI and a team of British army chaplains. A tight match with the Anglican church's finest ended in the narrowest of victories for the Archbishop of Canterbury's XI.

Media attention surrounding the tour led to officials at the Mount CC getting in touch with the St Peter's team to propose a match. During their visit to Rome they are to be invited to join members of the St Egidio religious community for prayers in one of the city's best known churches, the 12th Century Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere.

Persecuted church charity honours Sudanese archbishop

The Archbishop of Sudan, part of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan, has been awarded this year's *Pro Fide* award (Latin for "For Faith") by the Finnish based religious liberty group Friends of the Martyred Church.

Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo travelled to Finland last month to receive the award and to give a speech entitled "the Suffering Church's message for us."

"I am very much honoured to receive this award from you," Archbishop Kondo said. "This Award is not only to me but it is for all the faithful Sudanese Pastors who work in a very difficult situations and some with no salary!

"It is for the Pastors who followed their flocks to Diaspora. It is for those children being bombed in Nuba Mountains & Blue Nile and women being raped in Darfur. It is for the Sudanese refugees across the world.

"It is my prayer that peace with justice will reign in Sudan and South Sudan."



Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo

The award was presented by Johan Candelin, the founder and chairman of the Friends of the Martyred Church organisation. The organisation has 6,000 supporters and is active in 30 countries across the world speaking out for the persecuted church.

Media digest

BBC/Times/Real Time UK News

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has commissioned an independent review into the way the CofE responded to sex offence

allegations made against Peter Ball. The former Bishop of Gloucester and Lewes pleaded guilty last month to sex abuse charges involving men dating from the 1970s-90s. He will be sentenced on Wednesday. (*see above*)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34440473>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4576189.ece>

<http://www.newsrt.co.uk/news/church-review-into-retired-bishop-peter-ball-abuse-case-3518687.html>

Editorial (on above)

Times leader saying the Church is right to take this initiative and the review is essential and welcome.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4576008.ece>

Mail/BBC

Reports that the Prime Minister, speaking at the Conservative Party Conference, has rejected appeals to reconsider tax credits cuts for working poor families. Campaigners maintain the cuts will make families up to £1,300 worse off every year. Mr Cameron insisted that the increases in the national living wage and personal tax allowances will protect the poorest.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3259611/Cameron-REJECTS-calls-ease-tax-credit-cuts-amid-warnings-millions-working-families-set-lose-1-300-year.html>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-34437550>

Mail/Guard/BBC/Tel

Reports that at the start of the Synod of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Francis has made a call for a more tolerant attitude towards divorcees. He is quoted as saying the Church must not be a roadblock to those who want to rebuild their lives.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3259969/Pope-s-plea-tolerance-divorcees-Francis-says-church-not-roadblock-people-rebuild-lives-failed-marriage.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/04/pope-pressure-lgbt-rights-vatican-summit-family>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-34437209>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/vaticancityandhollysee/11910352/Vatican-sacks-gay-priest-after-highly-public-coming-out.html>

Mail

Report that Jeremy Forrest, former teacher at a CofE school in Chichester diocese and convicted of abducting a 15 year-old schoolgirl to France, is applying for teaching positions. The paper claims he is doing so without reference to his prison term on his CV.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3260059/Outrage-paedophile-teacher-Jeremy-Forrest-applies-jobs-classroom-fails-mention-past-CV.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3260059/Outrage-paedophile-teacher-Jeremy-Forrest-applies-jobs-classroom-fails-mention-past-CV.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3260059/Outrage-paedophile-teacher-Jeremy-Forrest-applies-jobs-classroom-fails-mention-past-CV.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

Ind

Reports on growing tensions in Jerusalem and the West Bank, following the fatal stabbing of two Jewish men. Authorities have closed the Old City to all Palestinians.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/jerusalem-back-on-the-brink-israeli-palestinian-tensions-high-after-knife-attack-leaves-two-dead-a6679476.html>

+ Facebook user?

Click on FACEBOOK on home page to receive daily headlines

October 6