



CNI

May 19 - Evening News briefs

Time to ask the really big questions, Moderator at Dublin City University Exa service

Preaching at Dublin City University's Service for Exams in All Hallows Chapel, Drumcondra, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland Rt Rev Dr Frank Sellar encouraged students to use their University experience as an opportunity to ask the 'vital questions of life'.

Dr Sellar said, 'University is great. Enjoy it. It's a privilege to be part of DCU but know this – Important though they may be, College is for far more than passing exams. It is for more than getting an education or even for preparing for life. Now is the time to be asking really big questions; Who am I? Why am I here? and Where am I going?'

Drawing upon the Gospel Reading from Mark 1, Dr Sellar added, 'You are an infinitely valuable, unique individual made in the image of a loving, creator and creative God. As God said to the Lord Jesus at the start of his early ministry: 'You

are my Son, whom I love. With you I am well pleased”.

Dublin city wide chaplaincy team commissioned

A city wide chaplaincy team for Dublin was commissioned on Wednesday May 17 by the Archbishop of Dublin. The team covers both universities and hospitals and the chaplains have undertaken training in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute as part of a new initiative. Archbishop Michael Jackson commissioned Susie Keegan (Dublin Institute of Technology), the Revd Rob Jones (Third Level Chaplaincy Team Leader), Sarah Marshall (DIT), the Revd Steve Brunn (Trinity College Dublin), Scott Evans (University College Dublin) and Philip McKinley (Dublin City University) in the area of Third Level Chaplaincy. He commissioned Hilda Plant and Olwyn Lynch to work in the area of Hospital Chaplaincy.

The Archbishop thanked all who had worked tirelessly to bring the new chaplaincy team together paying particular tribute to those in the Dublin & Glendalough Diocesan Office, the Priorities Fund and the Allchurches Trust. He also thanked the Revd Rob Jones for the tremendous work he had done in developing the team.

Plan to extend Belfast Sunday trading defeated

A plan to extend trading hours on 18 Sundays in Belfast has been heavily defeated in a vote at the city council. The move would have been permitted had the council designated all or part of the city a holiday resort under 1997 legislation. A council committee voted 12-3 against the holiday designation, with Sinn Féin, the SDLP and DUP all against. A recent public consultation found a majority in favour of longer opening hours during March to September. Of 2,471 responses from organisations and individuals, 62% supported the idea.

Kilmore youth pilgrimage to Knock

The Kilmore Diocesan Youth Ministry team have organised a special pilgrimage to Knock Shrine for junior cycle students of the Diocese to take place on June 16th. The Youth Ministry team, led by Ms Carina McGinnell, have invited all 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students of the diocese to join with them in a pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, for a day of workshops, quiet time and prayer. The pilgrimage offers a quiet space for young people in need of a break from the busy, noisy lives that they lead. This special youth pilgrimage will form

part of the ongoing Knock pilgrimage season, which takes place from April to October of this year. Organised pilgrimages from dioceses and communities will take place every weekend during the season.

May, Corbyn and Farron mark Christian Aid week with commitments to world's poor

The leaders of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties have written articles in the Church Times outlining their commitment to the world's poor. Marking 60 years of Christian Aid Week, Theresa May, Jeremy Corbyn and Tim Farron covered in their write-ups their view on Britain's role in the world covering issues including the aid budget, the refugee crisis and helping to eradicate global poverty. The Prime Minister said it was in Britain's national interest to stem problems overseas that could "threaten us here at home". The Conservative leader also said the United Kingdom should be proud to be the first G7 country to meet the UN target of spending 0.7 per cent of gross national income on international development. She promised that percentage would remain if her party formed the next government.

Theresa May refuses to interfere in Church of England's stance on gay couples

Theresa May has refused to interfere in the Church of England's debate over same-sex marriage. The Prime Minister, who is a regular churchgoer, dodged a question on whether she thought the established church should allow gay couples to wed in its buildings. 'As you know, the Church of England continues to debate these issues, and I respect the deeply-held views that many of its members have,' she said in a Q&A session with **PinkNews**. 'As the established Church, it is in a different legal position from other churches or faith groups, so the law equalising marriage had to recognise that.'

World Council of Churches delegation visits Harare

The World Council of Churches general secretary, the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, has arrived in Harare, Zimbabwe, leading a delegation of church leaders from Europe, Africa and North America. The two-day trip is an ecumenical solidarity visit to manifest Christian churches' support for the people of Zimbabwe.

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