



Fr Stanislaw Hajkowski SChr (Co-ordinator of the Polish chaplains in Ireland and Rector of St Audoen's Church) Andrzej Trala (member of the organising committee for the celebrations) looking at the beautiful interior of St Audoen's Church. Pic John Mc Elroy.

Polish community to celebrate 170 years of St Auden's Church, Dublin

Next Sunday, Bishop Wiesław Lechowicz, Chairman of the Polish Bishops' Council for

Emigrants will act as the main celebrant at a Mass to mark the 170ⁱeth anniversary of St Audoen's Church in Dublin.

The Mass is part of a series of events taking place over September and October to tie in with a number of significant anniversaries for the Church and its parishioners.

Fr Stanislaw Hajkowski SChr of St Audoen's said the presence of Bishop Lechowicz at the celebration of 170th anniversary of dedication of St Audoen's Church would be "a sign of respect for the Irish Church and her tradition".

According to Fr Hajkowski, Bishop Lechowicz is one of the most active Church leaders in Poland in promoting new forms of evangelisation and reaching out to those who left religious practices.

"One of his roles is seeking opportunities for cooperation between Polish young immigrants and local youth in responding to John Paul II's call for new evangelisation of the world."

Fr Hajkowski said the parish would like to see former Irish parishioners from St Audoen's or their descendants at the Mass. The homilist at the 6pm Mass will be Mgr Tom Stack.

This Mass will be followed a week later by a special Mass of thanksgiving on 25 September at 6pm to mark the tenth anniversary of the passing St Audoen's church to the Polish Community in Ireland.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin will act as the main celebrant and as homilist and concelebrants will include Bishop Ray Field, Chairman of the Council for Immigrants and Rev Ryszard Głowacki SChr, Superior General of the Society of Christ.

The Mass will be followed by a special anniversary concert of Polish medieval and modern sacred music. The choir, which will be drawn from St Audoen's Church and other Polish chaplaincies, will be under the baton of Dorota Józefiak.

22 free seminars at Belfast Church Life Conference

This year's ***Church Life Conference*** (Tuesday 15 November at The Ramada Hotel, Shaw's Bridge, Belfast). The organisers have issued this description of 5 of the 22 free seminars which you can attend

Creating A Dementia-Friendly Church

This presentation from *The Alzheimer's Society* will focus on the importance of making churches more dementia friendly - so that sufferers can continue to attend services and enjoy meetings. There will be discussion on the physical environment of the church, including suggestions of adjustments that can be made to make it easier to navigate. We will investigate the ways to properly communicate with a person with dementia to make them feel as comfortable and safe as possible. Finally, we will look at available services and the role they play in supporting people with dementia.

Open Up - Honest Conversations About Relationships

Concerned about the overt and constant sexualisation of our young people? Worried about the impact of media, peers and pornography on a generation who are desperate for truth, value and relationship? Local Christian charity *Love for Life* is passionate about celebrating God's model for relationships, and believes that the Church has a unique role to play in encouraging young people to develop a healthy respect for themselves, relationships and sex. At this presentation, be informed,

understand the challenge and learn about the range of resources available to help in this essential area of ministry.

Safe Church: Recognising and Responding to Domestic or Sexual Violence or Abuse

Safe Church was introduced in 2015 in recognition of the crucial role that churches can play within our communities in recognising and responding to domestic or sexual violence or abuse. Find out how your church can take up the opportunities for training and become a 'Safe Church' for those facing violence or abuse.

Compulsory Charity Registration - What's Involved for Churches and Charities?

This presentation from the *Charity Commission for Northern Ireland* will briefly set out the legal requirements with regards compulsory charity registration for Churches and Charities, what is involved and the benefits of registering as a group. It will focus on what is required from charities following registration, in particular the new law relating to the form and content of charity accounts and reports and the legal requirement for charities to submit their accounts and reports to the *Commission* on an annual basis.

NEW! Life Explored Course

After an intensive 5 years in development and trial, *Christianity Explored Ministries* is delighted to introduce a brand new course called, *Life Explored*. In this presentation, we will overview the 7 sessions which are based on stunning videos filmed all over the world, and see how *Life Explored* is every bit as evangelistic as *Christianity Explored*, but is designed to share the gospel by uncovering what people are really living for. In *Life Explored*, we discover that the greatest joy in life is not found in the gifts God has given us, but in God Himself.

View further details and book places for these and the other seminars online: [CLICK HERE](#)

Archbishop Martin of Armagh leads pilgrimage of solidarity to the Holy Land

Archbishop Eamon Martin is currently leading an eight-day pilgrimage of solidarity to the Holy Land accompanied by 177 pilgrims drawn from all around Ireland. Setting out from Dublin Airport the pilgrims' itinerary includes visits to sites associated with the earthly life of Christ.

The pilgrimage has a particular focus on demonstrating solidarity with the local Christian community – which has been diminishing in numbers in recent decades. Speaking ahead of the pilgrimage Archbishop Eamon said, “I am glad to be part of this pilgrimage of prayerful solidarity to the Holy Land. Our presence with God’s people there is much appreciated. It reminds them that they are not forgotten and it brings to the gloom of their suffering a glimpse of Easter hope and joy.”

Archbishop Eamon continued, “Many of the Christians in the Holy Land feel isolated, alone and discouraged. They are fearful of being neglected or even forgotten by their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. They have asked for our support and our pilgrimage is a tangible expression of our solidarity at this time of their suffering which has come about from persecution because of their faith, and by social and economic marginalisation.”

During the course of the pilgrimage, which will be based around the Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem and Jerusalem, Archbishop Eamon will lead pilgrims in meeting local Christian representatives including the Mayor of Bethlehem, Ms Vera

Baboun, and Bishop William Shomali of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Archbishop Eamon said, “Our pilgrimage has a unique character – we come in prayerful solidarity with the Christian community in the Holy Land. They call themselves the ‘living stones’ of the Holy Land – unlike some of the crumbling buildings and ruins which we will see during the pilgrimage.”

It is hoped that the pilgrimage would be the beginning of a series of such trips that will bring more and more Irish people to this historic region. One way to offer both practical and material support to the local communities is the twinning of Irish parishes with parishes in the Holy Land.

Archbishop Michael Jackson challenges British-Irish Association on sacred and secular

The annual conference of the British–Irish Association (BIA) met in Pembroke College, Oxford last weekend (9–11 September 2016). The BIA annual conference brings together a wide range of people – senior politicians and

government officials, businessmen and women, academics, faith leaders, writers, former paramilitaries and community workers – to discuss matters of mutual concern. Both the C of I Archbishop of Armagh and the Archbishop of Dublin were in attendance.

Archbishop Michael Jackson preached during a service at the conference on Sunday morning .

Focusing on the murder of Father Jacques Hamel as he celebrated the Eucharist at St–Etienne–du–Rouvray near Rouen on July 26th 2016, the Archbishop examined the sacred and the secular.

He said, “The focus of the world media during the ISIL campaign to date has had to keep changing in a way that is bewildering yet entirely predictable. There has been a steady focus on attacking things in the modern world that are an affront to ISIL and its pre–modern expectations of human congregating, convenience transport, public behaviour and personal ethics. And so we have the now coherent thread of: a Friday night in Paris with a highly orchestrated assault on people doing what they do in cities on Friday nights – going out for the evening; we have people gunned down in an airport as they

somehow disturb the thirst on the part of ISIL for enforced separated-ness as people again do what people do – travel for pleasure or for business, either alone or in their family; we have the almost Bond-style massacre of families and individuals in Nice on Bastille Day – again colourful national pride is clearly out of bounds; we have the assault on the gay night club in Orlando – again these are people who clearly, the argument runs, should not congregate and really should not exist at all. But alongside this there has been the destruction of heritage, cultural capital (what we call archaeology) and yet it points us to something manifestly majestic and sacred whether it be Palmyra or Timbuktu; there has been the murder of the Rabbi leaving children to school in Southern France and the attack on the Jewish Supermarket in the same fell swoop; there has also now been the community of the vulnerable in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray and the murder of its priest. Destruction of secular and sacred gathering by those who affront ISIL has become the order of the day. There can only be more of it and in more and more venues. Nobody wants to hear this. “

The full text of the address is available at -

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2016/09/Sacred-Secular-Civilisation-Culture--Where-Next--Archbishops-Sermon-at-the-British-Irish-Association-Conference->

Omagh and Fintona Circuit welcomes Methodist ministry couple



The Rev Eleanor Hayden and her husband Gareth (third and fourth left) are pictured following their recent service of welcome in Omagh Methodist church. The couple are now serving on the North West District where Mrs Hayden is superintendent of the Omagh and

Fintona Circuit and Mr Hayden is a lay pastoral assistant. The photograph also shows, from left, District Superintendent the Rev Peter Murray, who preached at the service, and the Circuit Steward, the Circuit Secretary and the Circuit Treasurer.

Priest who survived a shooting in South Africa to take up a post in his native Belfast

A Belfast-born missionary priest who survived a shooting in South Africa almost ten years ago is to take up a post in his native Belfast.

Ordained a Passionist priest in 1993, Fr Kieran Creagh CP was shot three times in February 2007 during a violent robbery on his home, which is attached to the Leratong AIDS hospice he established in the township of Atteridgeville in 2004.

The popular priest was the first person in Africa to be injected with a trial HIV vaccine and was named Irish International Personality of the Year in 2004.

After the shooting, Fr Creagh spent several months at home recuperating, only to return to South Africa towards the end of 2007.

Months later two of his attackers were convicted of his attempted murder and jailed for 25 years.

The brutal attack attracted international attention and Fr Creagh's story has since spread around the world, with his life's work currently being ghost written by an English biographer.

Fr Creagh later suffered post-traumatic stress after the attack and later moved back to Ireland to live on Tory Island in Co Donegal.

Last week it was announced that Fr Creagh's fellow Passionist, Fr Gary Donegan CP, is to leave his post as Rector of Holycross and move to Tobar Mhuire retreat in Crossgar in Co Down.

He will be replaced by his current deputy, Fr Eugene McCarthy CP, whose role of assistant superior and bursar will be filled by Fr Creagh.

Speaking about Fr Creagh, Fr Gary Donegan told the Irish News, "I wish Fr Kieran every success in his new role. He is a native of Ardoyne and he is coming home as it were and I wish him every happiness and if he gets only a modicum of the

joy and fulfilment I got working in Ardoyne he will be a lucky guy.”

He added, “He is a very strong character and not short of courage and will not be a guy that will shy away from responsibility and he is a hard worker.”

The changes will take affect later this month.

News briefs

+++ C of I ordinations - Yesterday in St Anne’s cathedral, Belfast, the Bishop of Connor ordained Dannielle McCullagh to serve in the parish of Mallusk and Chris St John to serve in Woodburn. The Bishop of Derry & Raphoe presided at an ordination service in St Eunan’s cathedral, Raphoe, where he made four deacons – Nigel Cairns for the Raphoe Cathedral group of parishes, Liz Fitzgerald for Donagheady, Rhys Jones for Castledawson and Robert Wray for Londonderry.

+++ Special events yesterday - The annual Elizabeth Bowen commemoration took place in St Colman’s church, Farahy, near Mitchelstown. The service of Evening Prayer was

conducted by the Revd Dr Robert MacCarthy and the preacher was Bishop Richard Henderson. In Co. Tyrone the 200th anniversary of St Mark's church, Newtownsaville, was marked by a special service at which the preacher was the Bishop of Clogher. A series of chorale fantasies, to mark the centenary of the death of the German composer and organist, Max Reger, commenced in St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin. The works were played on the cathedral's 1902 Willis organ by David Leigh, the assistant organist in St Patrick's.

+++ Irish College of Preachers - The annual conference of the Irish College of Preachers begins in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute on Wednesday and continues until Friday. The guest speaker will be the Ven. David Huss who is Rector of the Donegal group of parishes and Archdeacon of Raphoe.

+++ Skibbereen parish link with Olympic medalists - The silver medalists in the Olympic lightweight double sculls – Gary O'Donovan and Paul O'Donovan – have achieved fame locally, throughout Ireland and worldwide, not only because of their athletic prowess on the international stage, but also because of their

forthright, down-to-earth, very human and entirely natural way of speaking to the media about their dedication, their work and their hopes. After the Olympic Games, Paul went on to become world champion and to win the gold medal in the competition in Rotterdam. ‘They have energised us all,’ said Bishop Paul Colton, “and we should acknowledge too, at this time, a particular Church of Ireland role in all of this.’ So we should. Skibbereen Rowing Club, which nurtured Gary and Paul O’Donovan, was founded in 1970. One of the three founders of the Club, and a quiet, unsung, volunteer locally is Richard Hosford of the Parish of Abbeystrewry Union. Richard Hosford, together with two other local men, Donie Fitzgerald and Danny Murphy founded the club and it all started from there on the Ilen River.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Church of England responds to Government education proposals

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2016/09/church-of-england-responds-to-government-education-proposals.aspx>

The Catholic case for grammar schools

Catholic Herald

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2016/09/09/there-is-a-catholic-case-for-grammar-schools/>

Recent cases highlight the requirement for an Education ombudsman

Irish Examiner

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/columnists/michael-clifford/recent-cases-highlight-the-requirement-for-an-education-ombudsman-420303.html>

Northern Ireland drug seizures hit 10-year high, police figures show

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/northern-ireland-drug-seizures-hit-10year-high-police-figures-show-35039613.html>

Departing Dean of Derry leaves behind a changed city

Belfast Newsletter

... he will take on one of the most important roles in the **Church of Ireland**. ... in Northern Ireland's second city during an interview with the News Letter.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/departing-dean-of-derry-leaves-behind-a-changed-city-1-7570657>

S Times

Report that the PM's decision to scrap the 50% cap on the allocation of school places by faith will lead to 35-40 new Catholic free schools across the country. Article notes that Catholic bishops had previously vetoed the

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opening of new schools because of a 2010 ruling that schools that opened after that date had to offer half of its places to non-Catholics. The CofE said that the lifting of the cap would not alter its general commitment to places. <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/catholics-to-build-up-to-40-new-schools-7xmb0qbkx>

BBC

Report that police forces in England have teamed up with heritage experts to crack down on gangs stealing valuable metal from churches and historic buildings. Officers are working with Historic England to inspect scrapyards where thieves might try to sell lucrative metals such as lead and copper. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37324493>

Mail

Report that Manchester vicar Rachel Mann has complained to Amazon, via Twitter, after they dumped her parcel in a recycling bin - because she wasn't in at the time of delivery. The recycling was then taken away before she arrived home. Report adds that a later tweet said the situation was on the way to being resolved. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3783205/Call-safe-place-Vicar-s-fury-Amazon-deliver-package-blue-bin-gets-emptied-taken-recycling.html>

Letters

S Times

Response to last week's "14 clergy defy ban on gay marriage" (*News*), and "Praying to bishops for LGBTI acceptance", (*Letters*), from Rev Charlotte Bannister-Parker, University Church, Oxford. She writes that the Church also forbids its clergy from "blessing" same-sex

marriages even if they take place in a private setting such as a hotel after a civil service - priests are only allowed to offer “informal prayers” to a couple. “At best, many in the secular world might think this is bizarre, and at worst, abusive and unjust. It is challenging to evangelise the love of welcoming and generous God in the face of such a situation. “

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/letters-to-the-editor-qw60sg6kn>

Tel

Report on [statement](#) from the former Bishop of Rochester, Michael Nazir-Ali defending the British delegation which met the Syrian leader, saying they were able to meet with figures from across Syrian society and they had challenged Mr Assad over the killing of civilians. Critics of the visit said that the Rev'd Nazir-Ali and the others were giving legitimacy to Mr Assad.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/09/bishop-michael-nazir-ali-defends-controversial-meeting-with-assa/>

Ind

Report that loopholes are allowing faith groups to set up academies to gain influence over non-faith schools, according to the British Humanist Association (BHA) saying the CofE has gained influence through Multi Academy Trusts. Report includes full statement from CofE saying that in most cases church schools will form MATs with other church schools as the most appropriate way to maintain the Christian character of the school and that where community schools do join a CofE MAT, they will ensure that the ethos and character of the community school is protected.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/loopholes-in-the-academy-system-mean-religious-groups-can-convert-mainstream-schools-to-faith-a7233751.html>

Times

Feature on Natalie Esther, who founded Survivors of Sexual Abuse Anon (Sosaa) after ‘a disappointing experience of healing ministry in a large and well known evangelical church in central London motivated her to form her own charity to support victims’.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/survivor-of-sexual-abuse-shows-churches-the-way-forward-rdjbmdwt0>

Eve Stand/Mail

Reports on soaring house prices in catchment areas for high performing state schools; both articles ref Church of England schools.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/london-parents-paying-45000-more-for-homes-near-best-schools-a3340911.html> <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/property/article-3781293/Why-school-selection-house-prices-expensive-business.html>

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Blogs

C of E Communications

Church schools for the whole community

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/150170407937/church-schools-for-the-whole-community>

Law and Religion UK: Exhumation reburial and judicial precedent

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/09/09/exhumation-reburial-and-judicial-precedent-re-sam-tai-chan/>

Brightest Day: Arguing about God

<https://bengarry.wordpress.com/2016/09/06/arguing-about-god/>

Included by Grace: Don't infantilise adults with learning disabilities

<https://includedbygrace.wordpress.com/2016/09/07/dont-infantilise-adults-with-learning-disabilities/>

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