



Wedding Bells as Drumcondra and North Strand Parishes celebrate 12 decades of marriage

Fashion designer and tech entrepreneur, Sonya Lennon (above), will walk down the aisle to officially launch Drumcondra and North Strand's Wedding Exhibition later this month. The exhibition of wedding outfits and wedding photos from decades past has been organised to mark the 120th anniversary of the union of the two parishes. Ms Lennon (pictured) will officially open the event in North Strand Church on Friday September 30 at 5.00 pm.

The exhibition, which takes place in North Strand Church, North Strand Road, Dublin, from Friday September 30 to Sunday October 2, will bring people on a trip down memory lane displaying outfits and photos from couples' special days down through the years.

After 120 years together, Drumcondra and North Strand won't be suffering from pre-event nerves but there is great excitement as the countdown to the exhibition begins. So far they have more than 30 wedding dresses to show. These date back to the 1930s and there are outfits representing almost every decade since. There will also be wedding photos and albums to look through giving a fascinating visual history of weddings in the parish.

The parish got the idea for the exhibition from their Mothers' Union link branch in Durham, explained one of the organisers, Jean Denner. "What better way to celebrate the union of two parishes than an exhibition celebrating marriage down through the decades," she commented. "We are delighted that Sonya has agreed to launch the exhibition and we look forward to welcoming people from far and wide during the weekend."

Ms Lennon has 25 years experience in the fashion industry as a stylist, broadcaster, author and designer. The founding of Dress for Success Dublin, led to Sonya receiving the Arthur Guinness Fund Award in 2012. She is also co-founder of a technology start-up company with her collaborator and business partner Brendan Courtney. 'Frockadvisor' is a social discovery platform with eCommerce functionality for fashion retail.

The exhibition will be officially opened on Friday September 30 at 5.00 pm and will remain open until 8pm that evening. It will open from 10am to 5pm on Saturday; and from 2pm to 6pm on Sunday. The event will conclude with a Songs of Praise on Sunday October 2 at 7pm.

Admission to the exhibition will be €10 and there will be refreshments available.

Searching for God in London Fashion Week

On the eve of London Fashion Week, a film launched by the Church of England reveals the compassionate side of fashion, an industry whose ethics are often questioned.

The film explores how the Bible references clothing including Lydia, 'a merchant in purple cloth' and thought to be the first convert to Christianity in Europe and the description of Jesus in heaven with a gold sash around his chest, what God would do differently if He was in charge of London Fashion Week and how Christians working in fashion are brought together through prayer.

As chief operating officer of the British Fashion Council, Simon Ward was responsible for the organisation of London Fashion Week for many years. Having campaigned for improvements to working conditions of suppliers, interns and on issues of body image and identity, Simon says: 'I

compassion.' A new book, *The Character of Fashion*, by Simon Ward, will be launched at St Sepulchre's Church in central London on 15 September to coincide with London Fashion Week.

Through her work over 25 years in international fashion and luxury brands Chrissie Abbott is a familiar face at London Fashion Week. She started a prayer group nine years ago for people who work or study in fashion that meets in the heart of London regularly and during London Fashion Week. A founding member of the group Fashion for Christ, Chrissie says: 'The group has gone from strength to strength and now includes models too.'

Rev Peterson Feital is Missioner to the Creative Industries for London Diocese and founder of The Haven+, a charity that gives spiritual support to people working in the fashion and entertainment industries. In the film he talks of his chaplaincy role to those working in the sector and about how through fashion we can affirm 'the way God has made us...without feeling trapped or condemned by it.' The film can be found here - <https://youtu.be/d9vE3mfVCrE>

Archbishop cites NI peace process as example of hope in Bethlehem

Archbishop Martin of Armagh has referred to the peace process which brought an end to the conflict in Northern Ireland as he urged the people of Bethlehem and Christians in the Middle East not to lose hope.

In his address to the Mayor of Bethlehem, Ms Vera Baboun, Archbishop Eamon Martin who is leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, explained that, “Through our experiences in Ireland, we know the frustration caused by a seemingly endless cycle of conflict and the ever-present temptation to despair. We want to bring you hope.”

He said the people of Northern Ireland understand the struggles that are felt and experienced by local communities in the Middle East who are weary of conflict, violence and injustice.

“We too have had armed soldiers on our streets, heavily fortified checkpoints and security walls which interfere with the normality that ought to be daily family and commercial life.”



“We too have lived with the daily threat of bombs and shootings, and have seen how sectarianism, hatred and bigotry can turn neighbours into enemies, neighbourliness into suspicion, culture and even religion into difference and division.”

The Archbishop said that through “the great blessing of God that is the peace process in Ireland, we also know that resolution and reconciliation are possible and that violence and conflict can be overcome and replaced by peace and security”.

Dr Martin underlined that the transforming power of courageous leadership, supported by international cooperation and solidarity, and nourished by the collective goodwill of ordinary

people who say 'enough is enough' and who dare to extend the hand of friendship in prophetic ways across the divide, should never be underestimated.

He said the 178 pilgrims from Ireland were not there to offer simplistic solutions to a complex conflict or pious platitudes.

“We come with the only things we have: prayer and solidarity. In this birthplace of the ‘Prince of Peace’ we intensify our plea for mutual understanding and a just and lasting peace for this land which has known too much conflict, too much pain and division,” he said.

He stressed to the Mayor that the central aim of the pilgrimage was to express solidarity with the Christians of this land “who are the descendants of those who first heard the joy of the Gospel in the song of the Angels, that message of glory to God and peace to people of goodwill which has resounded down through human history for some 2,000 years”.

He added that as they walked over the days of the pilgrimage among the excavations of ancient foundations from Nazareth to Jericho and Jerusalem, they were conscious that the

Christians in this land are the 'living stones' who have faithfully borne witness to Christ in handing on the Gospel for more than twenty centuries.

Derryvolgie Parish, Lisburn celebrates 50 years

Fifty years of church witness was celebrated at St Columba's Church, Derryvolgie, at morning worship on Sunday September 11. The Fiftieth Anniversary Service was led by the rector, the Rev Stephen McElhinney. During this special service, an act of dedication of new church chairs and a bible trolley (a gift from the Mothers' Union) was conducted by The Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor, who also gave the address.

During the service Derek Shuter, the Rector's Churchwarden, gave a brief history of the church. Among the special guests was Canon Bertram Livingston, the first rector of Columba's Church (1963-1979). Derryvolgie Parish was created in 1963 from the adjoining parishes of Lisburn Cathedral, Lambeg and Derriaghy. The first rector was the Rev (now Canon) Bertram Livingston.

In January 1964, Sunday services and Sunday school commenced in a vacant shop on the Moss Road. In May of that year, a hut was built by parishioners to be used until a church could be built to cater for the needs of the people moving into the area of Derriaghy, Lambeg and Lisburn. Plans were prepared, and work commenced on the new church/hall in October 1965. The foundation stone was laid on December 11 1965 by Sir Ivan Ewart. The new building was dedicated by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev RCH Elliott, on September 10 1966. Also taking part were the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Cl Peacocke, and the Archdeacon of Connor, the Ven John Mercer. The sermon was preached by the Ven WLM Giff, Archdeacon of Meath.

The cost of the new building with furnishings was £23,500. The parishioners contributed £6,500 and the Connor Church Extension Fund gave £7,000. A loan of £10,000 was obtained from the Representative Church Body (RCB).

News briefs

+++ Special Triduum in honour of St. Therese
- will take place in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca, beginning on Thursday 29th

September until Saturday 1st October. Mass and talk each evening at 7.30 p.m. The Speaker for the Triduum will be Fr. Eugene Mc Caffrey O.C.D. - a well known writer of many books on St. Therese. He will talk on the importance of St. Therese for the Christian today. Accommodation is available for anyone who may wish to stay for the full period of the Triduum. Organised by the Diocese of Derry.

+++ Lecture: Scots Settlement and Presbyterianism in Connaught - The

Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland's next lecture is by Mr Jack Johnston on Scots Settlement and Presbyterianism in Connaught. On Thursday 22 September 2016 at 8.00 pm in Railway Street Presbyterian Church, Lisburn, Co. Antrim BT28 1XP. Tracing the development of Scots settlers into North Connaught in the seventeenth century, mainly from Donegal and Fermanagh, the setting up of early Presbyterian congregations and the establishment of the Connaught Presbytery in 1825. Jack Johnston has been teaching, writing and publishing in local history for 40 years. Everyone welcome. Refreshments provided.

+++ Ten years on - The C of I Diocesan Office in Londonderry has been celebrating a tenth birthday of sorts this week. The newly-renovated building in London Street was opened by the Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Robin Eames, on September 13, 2006, and dedicated by one of Lord Eames' successors as Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good. The premises, opposite St Columb's Cathedral, had been redesigned by Caroline Dickson Architects and undergone extensive improvement work carried out by the contractors J.A. Gamble and Co. Ltd.

+++ Canterbury beats Rome - The third annual cricket match between the Vatican's St Peter's Cricket Team and the Church of England's Archbishop's XI ended with victory for the Anglicans. Yesterday's convincing win in the blistering heat of Kent County Cricket Club's Spitfire Ground makes it 2-1 to the Church of England since the first match in 2014. The Archbishop's XI batted first and ended their 20 overs on 157 for four. In their reply, the Vatican side had reached 63 for four after 13 overs when Father Tony Currer, from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, was forced to retire with injury. It was all over a short time later when

the St Peter's Cricket Team finished on 94 for seven – giving the Archbishop's XI victory by 3 runs! "Justin Welby will be pleased!" a Tweet from the Anglican Centre in Rome said.

The two sides will meet again today at Edgbaston in Birmingham, where they will be joined by a Muslim side from Yorkshire – the Mount Cricket Club. They will play a three-way T20 series, beginning at 10.30 am when the Archbishop's XI once again take on St Peter's. This will be followed by St Peter's taking on the Mount; before the Mount takes on the Archbishop's XI. The day is expected to end at around 7.30pm. Admission is free and a collection will be taken for anti-trafficking charities. Today, representatives from the three sides will visit a C of E school in Birmingham where the majority of pupils are Muslims. It is intended to be a demonstration that friendships can transcend faith differences. The matches have been sponsored by the Church Times and Ecclesiastical Insurance with the support of Kent, Warwickshire and Yorkshire County Cricket Clubs.

+++ New Zealand woman to be Archdeacon of Canterbury - The Dean of Auckland's Holy

Trinity Cathedral in New Zealand, the Very Revd Jo Kelly-Moore, has been appointed to the senior archdeacon's role in the Church of England.

When she takes up her new role as Archdeacon of Canterbury early next year, Kelly-Moore will – in addition to the usual role of an archdeacon – be responsible for installing all new diocesan bishops in the C of E's southern province. Before ordination, the new archdeacon was a lawyer in both London and New Zealand – something that will no-doubt come in useful in her new role; as archdeacons in the Church of England have specific legal responsibilities in areas including the use and development of church buildings, parochial boundaries, and clergy discipline. She will work alongside Trevor Willmott, the Bishop of Dover, who – as Bishop in Canterbury – takes on much of the responsibility for the Diocese to free up Archbishop Justin Welby for his national and international ministry; and will be the vice Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, the mother-church of the Anglican Communion. “I am delighted that Jo is coming to work with us here in Canterbury and I have no doubt that her experience and great talents will be of huge benefit, not just to the Canterbury Archdeaconry or cathedral, but to the whole Diocese,” Bishop Trevor Willmott, said. “We have found in Jo an excellent and astute

theologian with wide-ranging leadership and management skills. I would like to assure Jo and her family of the prayers and support of the whole diocese as they embark on this new adventure.” Auckland Bishop Ross Bay said that the appointment was “well deserved.”

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Dad of woman who had to bring dead baby home in cooler bag pleads for Northern Ireland abortion reform

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/dad-of-woman-who-had-to-bring-dead-baby-home-in-cooler-bag-pleads-for-northern-ireland-abortion-reform-35048807.html>

Paediatric pathologist resigns over interventions by NI attorney general on abortion

BBC News

A paediatric pathologist has resigned over interventions by NI's attorney general on abortion laws surrounding fatal foetal abnormality.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37353825>

Children need educated on how to view porn, says Ulster Teachers' Union

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/children-need-educated-on-how-to-view-porn-says-ulster-teachers-union-35048638.html>

NI Victims Forum appointments

News Letter

The widow of UDA leader John Michael is one of 10 fresh appointments to the 25-strong Victims and Survivors Forum.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/widow-of-murdered-uda-chief-joins-victims-and-survivors-body-1-7576002>

Bishop Edward Daly's family amazed at outpouring of grief in Derry

News Letter

The sister of the late Bishop Edward Daly says her family has been amazed by the overwhelming outpouring of grief from the people of Derry for her "big brother" in the month since his death.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/video-bishop-daly-family-amazed-by-bogside-memorial-to-icon-1-7573518>

Christian Today

Report that the C of E has produced two new videos which show how the Church is harnessing new digital strategies for evangelism. Part of the Renewal and Reform programme, the videos are introduced by the Bishop of Burnley, Philip North. The article quotes the Archbishop of Canterbury who explains, "Witness to who Jesus is and seeking to bring others to know him, what

we often call evangelism, is the overflow through us of what God has given us in Jesus Christ."

Lancs Even Post

Reports that the Archbishop of York gave a special blessing St. Michael's-on-Wyre flood victims on his trip to the Garstang deanery as part of his Crossroads Mission this weekend. Archbishop Sentamu visited the village to give a special dedication at the newly refurbished village hall, which suffered thousands of pounds worth of damage following last year's floods. The vicar Canon Ron Greenall is quoted.

<http://www.lep.co.uk/news/archbishop-s-blessing-for-flood-victims-1-8123089>

Schools Week

Profiles James Townsend, the new head of the Educational Foundation for Leadership, whose Church House based team oversee the 4,700 schools run by the C of E and their one million pupils educated in them each day.

<http://schoolsweek.co.uk/james-townsend-educational-foundation-for-leadership/>

BBC

Reports that the Revd Martinson, of St John's Church, Bransholme, Hull, is hoping to travel from John O'Groats to Land's End in a wheelchair to raise money for his church. Matt, who served four years of sentence for armed robbery earlier in his life, said he was embarking on the 965-mile challenge to have some "time away on my own". He aims to become this first unsupported disabled person to make the trip, which he expects to take three weeks.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-37338590>

Guard

Explores the question of why resettling a refugee cost £17,000 in the US, but £85,000 in Britain. The article notes that one refugee family have been supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and speaks to Stephen Hale, the Head of Refugee Action, one of the main charities involved in the UK's resettlement scheme.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/shortcuts/2016/sep/13/why-does-resettling-a-refugee-cost-17000-in-the-us-but-85000-in-britain>

Yorks Even Post

Reports that Mount Cricket Club, a team of Muslim players from Batley Yorkshire, is taking in the 'Light of Faith' tour with the Archbishop of Canterbury's XI team and Vatican-based St Peter's side. It follows a match that was played between Mount CC and the St Peter's team last autumn, when the Vatican side won by four runs on the last ball. Next Monday a floodlit evening rematch will take place at the Yorkshire County Cricket ground. It is hoped that the visit will develop inter-faith relations.

<http://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/vatican-cricket-team-pitches-up-in-leeds-to-boost-inter-faith-harmony-1-8121681>

Tel/Mail

Report that badgers are damaging a closed churchyard by digging up graves and unearthing human bones. The animals have clawed up mounds of earth in the grounds of the 13th century All Saints church, Loughborough, Leicestershire. Charnwood Borough Council, which is responsible for maintaining the Peace Garden, said it

was aware of the issue and is "aiming to resolve it in the near future". A spokesman for the Diocese of Leicester said they have not been able to remove the badgers as they are a protected species.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/13/badgers-dig-up-graves-and-leave-human-remains-around-cemetery-bu/>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3787143/Badgers-wreaking-havoc-medieval-churchyard.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Yorks Post

Reports that more than half of secondary school pupils believe that people have souls, a survey has revealed. The majority of those questioned (52 per cent) also said that they agreed with the statement "I believe that life has an ultimate purpose" and 45 per cent believe in God. Prof Berry Billingsley, of Canterbury Christ Church University, surveyed 670 pupils aged 14 to 17 across eight English secondary schools.

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/education/most-secondary-school-pupils-think-people-have-souls-and-life-has-a-purpose-1-8123285>

Mail

Reports that the cost of a basic funeral has risen for the 13th year running to an average £3,897. A typical burial costs £4,356, a cremation £3,437. This excludes extras such as a church service, coffin and funeral cars. This brings the total cost of dealing with the death of a loved one to £8,802, up over £675 from last year, says SunLife insurance.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/news/article-3788100/Cost-basic-funeral-soars-13th-year-running-costing->

[average-3-897.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](#)

Letters

Times: Church schools and inclusive admissions.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/church-schools-and-inclusive-admissions-5tw6mjt72>

Blogs

Threads:

The generation without a plan

<https://www.threadsuk.com/in-debt-and-on-the-dole-the-generation-without-a-plan>

The groaning God:

<https://www.threadsuk.com/the-groaning-god>

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