



CNI

Anglican-Orthodox International Commission to meet in Armagh

The International Commission for Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue will be meeting in Armagh from Friday September 23 to Thursday 29 September. The Commission draws together senior clergy and theologians from across the Eastern Orthodox Churches and the Anglican Communion; last year it met in Buffalo, NY, USA, and published an Agreed Statement: *In the Image and Likeness of God: A Hope-Filled Anthropology*.

Representatives from the Churches will stay in Armagh and will worship in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral using both Anglican and Orthodox liturgies. On Sunday September 25, members of the Commission will worship at St Mark's Parish Church, Ballymore (Tandragee), at 11am and in the afternoon there will be a special ecumenical Evensong at St Patrick's Cathedral at

3.15pm, followed by a reception in the Synod Hall, Armagh. The Commission members will also visit Downpatrick and the Mournes on Tuesday 27.

Ahead of the meeting in Armagh, the Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, was appointed to the co-chairmanship of the Commission by the Archbishop of Canterbury; his co-chair is Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia. On his appointment, Archbishop Richard Clarke said: 'It is a privilege to accept the appointment of Co-Chair of the International Commission for Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue by the Archbishop of Canterbury and it is a significant honour and moment for the Church of Ireland to have the Commission meet here in Armagh. I look forward very much to the role and to welcoming distinguished Orthodox and Anglican guests from across the world to our shores.'

'The peace... was amazing' – Canon David Jardine

The Rev Canon David Jardine, organiser of Saturday's Day of Prayer to find God's Peace in

St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on September 17, said it had been a 'tremendous day.'

The public were invited to come to the Cathedral anytime between 9am and 6pm, to pray in silence. A large wooden cross was erected on the Chancel steps, and the day began with church leaders of all denominations knelt in prayer at the foot of the cross.

David said: "In the last few hours the peace in that place was amazing. People were coming and going but there wasn't a sound."

He estimates that between 800 and 1,000 people came in to pray in the course of the day.

"It was largely a day of silence with a short reflection on the hour and half hour," he explained. "The reflections were led by men and women from all different religious denominations and by members of the Divine Healing Ministries team.

"We had a fantastic cross, 10 feet high, on the chancel steps, built for us by Habitat for Humanity."

He added: "St Anne's has never seen a day like it, at least not in my lifetime."



Around 200 people wrote prayer requests or statements of faith, and these were left in a basket at the foot of the cross. “We prayed over those for 10 minutes at the end of the day,” David said. “None will be opened, they are all confidential, but we will pray over them at our other healing services this week too.

“As they were leaving people said how freeing it was to be able to release their thoughts at the foot of the cross.”

The event was aimed at anyone whose peace has been disturbed, perhaps by experiences in the past, inviting them to come and spend time with God in ‘an atmosphere of godly calmness.’

David said the day provided an opportunity to “lay down any of the things that disturb, forgive those who have hurt you, say sorry where you may have hurt others and make a commitment to help build a better future for our land.”

It was originally to be held at Balmoral Park, Maze, Long Kesh, but was changed to St Anne’s Cathedral after discussions with victims’ groups.

David said he had been very happy with how the Day of Prayer had gone. “It was never meant to be an end, it is just a stage on the journey,” he said. “Our first Day of Prayer for Peace was held 25 years ago in St Anne’s on April 30 1991, coinciding with peace talks between local politicians. We have continued ever since.

“We already have a vision of where to carry on from here. We want to have four hours of prayer every day in a city centre church, beginning in January and then organise prayer on a daily basis in towns across Northern Ireland.

“We need daily prayer for a true and lasting peace in this province.”

Clergy to engage with homelessness issues

As the numbers of individuals and families experiencing homelessness keep growing and efforts to address the problem continue, the Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland (CASC) is offering an opportunity to engage with the issues surrounding homelessness. CASC has issued an invitation to clergy and church leaders from all denominations to attend an information morning in Griffith College on Monday next, September 26.

The seminar will feature contributions from leading professionals including Peter McVerry of the Peter McVerry Trust, CEO of Tiglin Challenge Phil Thompson and David Carroll, Director of Services and Development with Depaul. The introductory remarks on the day will be made by Archbishop Michael Jackson.

“Homelessness has been a prominent topic in the media in recent months, relating to the deepening crisis of homelessness in Dublin and the record number of people in emergency accommodation. During the morning, we hope to raise awareness about wider issues relating to

homelessness, and to signpost resources,” a spokesperson for CASC commented.

There are a few spaces remaining for the seminar which takes place in the Griffith Conference Centre, Griffith College, South Circular Road, Dublin 8. Attendance is free and there will be free parking available for attendees. The day starts with registration and tea and coffee at 9.30am with opening remarks at 10am. The event concludes with light lunch at 1.30pm.

To secure a place, please email **seminar@ireland.anglican.org** or contact Caoimhe Leppard in Church of Ireland House, Dublin, at 01–4978608.

Concert marks composer Colin Mawby's 80th birthday

A special concert in Dublin on Saturday will celebrate the renowned choral conductor and composer Colin Mawby's 80th birthday.

Known for his compositions such as the 'Requiem of Cardinal Basil Hume' and a fanfare for the opening of the concert hall in Dublin City University, he was awarded a Knighthood of St Gregory by Pope Benedict XVI.



His setting of Psalm 23 was included on Charlotte Church's CD, and his Ave Maria was recorded on the Celtic Tenor's CD.

He is expected to attend the concert in his honour next Saturday in Dublin's Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mourne Road.

"It is great that he will be there and that we have a composer of his stature who is still working away and great to pay tribute to him," Deirdre Seaver one of the organisers told Catholicireland.net.

Project Messiah Chorus, the choral group that she is involved with, put out a call four years ago

for volunteers to learn Handel's *Messiah* in 8 weeks and perform it at the start of Advent.

A group has performed the *Messiah* each year since.

Colin Mawby is known to members of both Project Messiah Chorus and the Palestrina Choir which are linked through director Blánaid Murphy – and they all wanted to mark his birthday.

“Of course Colin is such an advocate and proponent of choral work that we decided that it would be a great tribute to him,” said Deirdre Seaver.

They will be joined by the Palestrina Choir which will sing Colin Mawby *Missa Caro Mea* which premiered during the Eucharistic Congress in 2012.

The Pro-Cathedral Girls' Choir will sing *Beatus Vir* by Monteverdi.

All the choirs will join together for the final rousing movement of the *Missa Caro Mea* which is interspersed with the famous melody – Glory, Hallelujah.

In his long career, Colin Mawby has conducted worked with the London Mozart Players, the Wren Orchestra, Pro Cantione Antiqua, the Belgian Radio Choir and the BBC Singers. He has been Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral, London.

Nearer to home he was choral director at Radio Telefís Éireann (RTÉ) and artistic director of Ireland's National Chamber Choir.

During his time as Choral Director at RTÉ he was instrumental in the formulation and development of the new choral policy that led to the establishment of the National Chamber Choir, RTÉ Philharmonic Choir and RTÉ Cór na nÓg.

On his retirement from the National Chamber Choir in 2001 he was appointed Artistic Director Emeritus to the choir.

He has composed over fifty masses, five song cycles, a large number of settings for choir and two children's operas.

Awards include top honours in the 2002 Waging Peace Through Singing competition in Oregon, USA for his Prayer of Forgiveness.

The performance takes place on Saturday 24 September at 7.30pm at the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mourne Road. Tickets are €10.

"Increase in ministry numbers is necessary and achievable" C of E reports

The Church of England released two related reports on clergy numbers yesterday, one looking back at the actual numbers from 1949 to 2014, and one looking at projections of numbers up to 2035.

Dioceses have responded to the call to work towards a 50% increase in candidates for ordination with new posts and new procedures. A review of numbers in ordained ministry over the last 67 years shows that the 50% increase in candidates for ministry by 2020 agreed by the General Synod in February, 2015, is needed to stabilise and increase the numbers ministering in parishes, chaplaincies and new forms of church.

The Church of England is seeking to increase by half the numbers training for ordained ministry

and to sustain those numbers for a decade: an increase from about 500 to 750 by 2020. At the same time, the Church is also seeking greater diversity among those training for ministry. This will better reflect the communities where the Church is working, in terms of age, gender and ethnic and social background. The 50% increase is an aspiration and not a limit if more candidates come forward and dioceses require more new clergy...

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The Bishop of Guildford, the Rt Rev Andrew Watson, chair of the Ordained Vocations Working Group said, "The aspiration to increase the number of new clergy by 50% is part of a wider vision to release and develop the gifts of the whole people of God.

"It's encouraging to see most of the dioceses really rising to this challenge, as they reshape their vocations teams and put new and more proactive vocations strategies in place. We are picking up a fresh commitment to 'pray to the Lord of the Harvest', along with early reports of an increase in the number of enquiries from potential candidates."

Encouraging more young men and, especially, young women, as well as more Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) worshippers to consider ordination will help the Church of England hit its aspiration of an extra 50% new clergy each year, according to a report on ordained vocations

statistics published today. The Church is not just looking for an increase in numbers but also a growth in diversity. Dioceses have said that ministry in the future needs to embody the diversity in the Church and the nation to realise the hopeful future at the heart of Renewal and Reform.

The statistical review to help dioceses plan for the future shows that, while similar numbers of men and women are being recommended for ordination training each year, women are testing their vocations at a later age and tend to retire sooner than the men. Currently, women recommended for training are, on average, significantly older than the men recommended. The majority of younger paid clergy are men, while, among older clergy, more are women. The Church is encouraging women to test their vocations younger.

Jesuits prepare to elect new leader

Jesuits are preparing to gather in Rome to elect a new superior general.

The general congregation meeting, the first since 2008, will begin on October 2 with a Mass near the tomb of St Ignatius Loyola. 215 Jesuits from around the world will be present. They include six religious brothers; 33 of the delegates are from the United States and Canada, according to Jesuit Father Patrick Mulemi, director of the Jesuit communications office in Rome.

Pope Francis is scheduled to be in Azerbaijan when the general congregation begins, but he is expected to address the delegates sometime during their meeting.

A committee has been working since January on a comprehensive report on the status of the Society of Jesus, Fr Mulemi said. The report should be presented to the general congregation on October 3.

The current superior, Father Adolfo Nicolas, announced in 2014 that he would tender his resignation this year after more than eight years in office. He turned 80 in April.

After members of the general congregation discuss the status report, they will be asked to accept Fr Nicolas's resignation, which they are

expected to do even though the superior general of the Jesuits is elected for life.

In an interview published in July by the Jesuit headquarters, Fr Nicolas said the congregation is free to accept or reject his resignation request. But “we need agility and daring in facing the future,” and if the delegates insist he remain superior general, they “will have to elect a vicar to provide for the coming years in which my abilities will certainly be greatly diminished, a process that I am already beginning to feel at present.”

The process of electing a new superior will begin sometime after the presentation and discussion of the status report.

The congregation members themselves determine the schedule for the meeting. Other than the opening Mass and initial presentation of the status report, “there is no set date for the rest of the business,” Father Mulemi said, and “there is no way of knowing when it will end.”

As of January 1, the total number of Jesuits in the world was 16,376: 11,785 priests, 1,192 brothers, 2,681 scholastics and 718 novices — a

net loss of 351 members from the previous year, Father Mulemi said.

The average age of the 215 Jesuits participating in the general congregation is 56 years, he said. The oldest member of the body will be Father Nicolas, and the youngest is Jesuit Brother James Edema from the Eastern Africa province, who is 39.

News briefs

+++ New Diocesan Youth and Children's Co-ordinators - the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh have appointed two Diocesan Youth and Children's Co-ordinators. The aim of these exciting roles is to support individual Parish groups and other Diocesan organisations as they nurture and foster Christian faith development in children and young people in the Diocese. Hannah O'Neill has been appointed as the new Diocesan Children's and Youth Co-ordinator for Kilmore. Marian Edwards is the new Diocesan Children's and Youth Co-ordinator for Elphin and Ardagh.

+++ President of the Christian Union at Queen's University - This year's President of

the Christian Union at Queen's University Belfast is 21 year old Thomas Adamson, a parishioner of Knocknamuckley in Dromore Diocese. Thomas, who is studying for a Masters in Structural Engineering with Architecture, asks us to pray for the work of the CU at Queen's.

+++ New UK Ambassador to the Holy See -

Sally Axworthy presented her Letters of Credence, accrediting her as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Holy See, to Pope Francis at the Vatican on Tuesday. After presenting her credentials to the Pope, Axworthy said: "It will be a great privilege to continue to build on the excellent relations between the United Kingdom and the Holy See, and the many core values that we share. "Pope Francis is one of the most, if not the most, respected international leader. People pay attention to what he is saying and doing, and it is important that we engage with him and the global Holy See network". The ambassador added: "We share a common agenda with the Holy See and the Catholic network. It's very relevant to many of the concerns that the world is currently facing: from conflict prevention to dialogue between faiths, freedom of religion or belief, international development, climate change, defeating modern slavery and ending

sexual violence in conflict". Axworthy, who has succeeded Nigel Baker as ambassador to the Holy See, joined the Foreign Office (FCO) in 1986. Her career has taken her to Russia, Ukraine, Germany, and India. Most recently she was the Joint Head of North Africa Department at the FCO. She is an MBE.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Record numbers sleeping rough in Dublin

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/record-numbers-sleeping-rough-in-dublin-35063886.html>

Irish Church paying price for blocking Vatican II reforms

Irish Times

Now in Ireland, as I follow the church-related debates, what seems to me to be the real problem is that, at the end of Vatican II, Ireland avoided the ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/irish-church-paying-price-for-blocking-vatican-ii-reforms-1.2796947>

Drumlease Church of Ireland Chapel celebrates bicentennial

Leitrim Observer

The **Church of Ireland** parish church in Drumlease, is marking 200 years with a special thanksgiving service on September 25 at 3pm. The Bishop of ...

<http://www.leitrimobserver.ie/news/local-news/216174/drumlease-church-of-ireland-chapel-celebrates-bicentennial.html>

New Dromore minister looking to reach out to community

The Ulster Herald

Holy Trinity Church, Dromore ... The new **Church of Ireland** Minister of Dromore has said he is looking forward to ...

<http://ulsterherald.com/2016/09/18/new-dromore-minister-looking-to-reach-out-to-community/>

Christian Today

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury is travelling to Assisi in Italy for a World Day of Prayer for Peace hosted by Pope Francis tomorrow and attended by Christian leaders and representatives of other religions. The inter-religious peace gathering was initiated by Pope John Paul II 30 years ago. The event comes ahead of a more formal one-to-one meeting between the Archbishop and the Pope early next month. They will celebrate evening prayer together on 5 October and then hold private talks at the Vatican the next day.

Christian Today/Premier

Report that Christians across the church denominations will be urged to join the Archbishop of Canterbury's prayer initiative ahead of Pentecost next year. Churches throughout the UK and around the world will unite to pray for more people to come to faith as the evangelism drive

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enters its second year. Millions could join in 2017 after the 'Thy Kingdom Come' enterprise saw more than 100,000 Christians gather in prayer in 2016.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/Justin-Welby-launches-ten-days-of-evangelism-prayer-ahead-of-Pentecost>

Mail

Reports that armed police will patrol Canterbury Cathedral as security is tightened following attacks in Europe. Officers will stand guard outside the place of worship after an increase in the number of international terror attacks and a rise in national threat levels, although Kent Police stress there was no direct threat to the Cathedral or other sites. The move follows a Home Office announcement that all police forces in England and Wales should increase firearms patrols to protect the public.

Coventry Tel

Reports that The Help For Heroes charity raised more than £10,000 holding a boxing event inside Coventry Cathedral. It was part a series of events across the UK set up by the charity - which supports injured servicemen and women. The evening did attract some criticism with a handful of people questioning whether it should have been held in a place of worship. But the Dean of Coventry John Witcombe, said boxing is a way of generating discipline and self-respect.

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/it-wasnt-straightforward-decision-dean-11908042>

Mail

Agency copy reports that CFO Lending will pay £34.8 million in compensation to 97,000 clients after the Financial Conduct Authority discovered the payday lender was treating them unfairly. Article notes that the FCA has agreed a number of redress schemes with payday lenders since 2014 as it cracks down on a sector under fire from lawmakers and the C of E alike for piling pressure on the poor with high interest rates.

Blogs

Law and Religion: Exorcism, witchcraft and religious abuse

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/09/19/exorcism-witchcraft-and-religious-abuse/>

Archbishop Cranmer: Child euthanasia

<http://archbishopcranmer.com/child-euthanasia-belgium-fatal-injection-terminally-ill-teenager/>

Threads: Bro, do you even lift?

<https://www.threadsuk.com/bro-do-you-even-lift>

Included by grace: My church is on Tuesday and we have a train set

<https://includedbygrace.wordpress.com/2016/09/18/my-church-is-on-tuesday-and-we-have-a-train-set/>

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