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## 6,000 witness consecration of new colours for Royal Irish Regiment at Titanic Belfast



**Reverend Dr David Coulter, chaplain general of the Army, consecrated the Colours**

Hundreds of soldiers from 1 Royal Irish and 2 Royal Irish took part in the event at Titanic Slipways in Belfast, during

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**The Duke of York has presented the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Royal Irish Regiment with new Colours.**



which the regiment received new colours from HRH The Duke of York.

The new colours have been updated with details of battle honours awarded to the regiment in recent actions.



The Chaplain General, Rev Dr David Coulter, who was an officer of the regiment prior to training for ordination, said it was “a great honour” to have the Duke of York present the new colours to the Royal Irish Regiment in Belfast.

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Chaplain General Coulter, from Belfast, is due to retire after 30 years as an army chaplain. He consecrated the regiment's new

colours during the event. Prayers were said by the chaplains to the two battalions of the regiment.

"Being in the Titanic Quarter, a place of great history, for the soldiers they will never forget being part of an event like this.

"I have the privilege of consecrating the colours, so I do this three or four times a year, but every single one of them is very different and very special," he said.

"I grew up in Belfast and when I joined the army in 1976 it would have been unimaginable that we would have been able to do this here, in the Titanic, as it was a deserted shipyard then.

"Now it's a vibrant place like the rest of the city - I never thought I'd see it looking so splendid.

"I started my carer in Belfast and I've ended it here. You just have to look back with pride and look forward with hope."

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## Service marks 750th anniversary at Armagh cathedral

St Patrick's cathedral, Armagh, celebrated the 750th anniversary of the present building with a Festival Service of Choral Evensong yesterday afternoon. The guest preacher was the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford.

The foundation of the first church on the site is attributed to St Patrick, in 445AD, and the present cathedral dates from the work of Archbishop Máel Pátraic Ó Scanail in 1268. Of this building, all that remains for certainty is the crypt. The structure was extended by Archbishop Milo Sweetman in the 14th Century. After several centuries of destruction and disrepair, the building owes much to the major restoration in the 1830s under Archbishop Lord John George Beresford, and to further alterations of the east end between 1890 and 1913.

St Patrick's cathedral is the diocesan cathedral for the Diocese of Armagh and also witnesses significant moments in the life of the whole Church of Ireland, including meetings of episcopal electoral colleges, the consecration of bishops and the enthronement of archbishops.

The cathedral is at the centre of a cluster of ecclesiastical buildings, many the work of the 18th century Archbishop of Armagh, Richard Robinson, afterwards Baron Rokeby, among which are the impressive palace (now used by the local authority), Vicars' Hill with its clerical residences, Music Room and Exhibition Centre, and of course Robinson's Library, recently renamed the Armagh Robinson Library.

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Next Wednesday evening the **Armagh Robinson Library** will be the venue for an important book launch. The latest volume in the Cambridge edition of the works of Jonathan Swift, *Irish Political Writings after 1725: A Modest Proposal and Other Works*, has been edited by Professor David Hayton, Emeritus Professor in the School of History in Queen's University, Belfast, and Professor Adrian Rounce, from the University of Nottingham, and will be launched by Professor Andrew Carpenter.

## **Dublin diocesan Mothers Union service focus on In Mary Sumner's Footsteps**

Mothers' Union members from all over Dublin & Glendalough converged on Monkstown Parish Church last Thursday night (September 21) for the annual Diocesan Festival Service. Archbishop Michael Jackson presided at the service with the Rector, Canon Roy Byrne. He also commissioned the Revd Norman McCausland as Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain and Amy Hourie as Action and Outreach Unit Coordinator.

The sermon was preached by the Chaplain who took as his inspiration the theme of Mothers' Union worldwide for the coming year: 'In Mary Sumner's Footsteps'.

He pointed out that in 1876 when Mary Sumner started the first Mothers' Union branch in her husband's parish of Old Alresford, she was already a grandmother and "no spring chicken". Neither were the other members of the first branch. He suggested that while MU members today may be concerned about an aging membership profile, they

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**D&G MU President Karen Nelson, MU Diocesan Chaplain the Revd Norman McCausland, Action and Outreach Unit Coordinator Amy Hourie and Archbishop Michael Jackson at the MU Diocesan Festival Service in Monkstown Parish Church.**

should remember that this group of women started a worldwide organisation.

He said Mary Sumner's actions reflected the evening's Gospel reading [St Mark 8: 27–38] in which Jesus said "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me". She highlighted issues which impacted families and children including child poverty.

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“She was not afraid to raise the tough issues and do what she believed was right,” he said. “The world in which Mary Sumner lived was very different to the one in which we live where people have rejected institutional church. Mothers’ Union offers Christian care to people in parishes where there are declining numbers because people can’t afford houses and in places where there are huge new housing developments.”

He added that Mothers’ Union work to offer Christian care in communities where there are many different challenges and changes in our understanding. However, Mothers’ Union understands that each and every human being is made in the image of God, he stated.

“Life is often less than ideal. Sometimes it is wrong but it is always redeemable. In Mothers’ Union we campaign for people in difficult situations. We take on the tough issues. Around the world Mothers’ Union is working to end gender based violence and sexual abuse. I am impressed by the circle of prayer you make around family life and the work done by the Faith and Policy group which goes beyond the work of any group in the Church of Ireland,” he said.

Mr McCausland said that Mothers’ Union was more than tea and tray bakes and pointed out that Mothers’ Union contributed to upholding family life, campaigning on issues of the day and being a significant part of the life of Dublin & Glendalough. “In following in the footsteps of Mary Sumner there is a challenge to find new ways of supporting families... There is so much to celebrate and much still to do,” he concluded.

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## **Choir of 60+ at second Connor Big Sing**

The second Connor Big Sing resulted in a choir of more than 60 people leading contemporary praise at a service in Lisburn Cathedral on Sunday evening, September 16.

The 'Connor Big Sing' was introduced last year, and was such a success and so enjoyed by all that Dean Sam Wright and Chapter of St Saviour's at Lisburn Cathedral organised a second event.

Lisburn Cathedral Music Co-ordinator Stephen McLoughlin along with Julie Harper led and trained singers and musicians during the afternoon workshop which preceded the evening praise service.

The event was open to anyone from across Connor Diocese with an interest in contemporary Christian music including praise groups, musicians and choir members.

The evening service was led by the Rev Danielle McCullagh, Curate at Lisburn Cathedral, and the choir formed especially for the occasion was led by Julie accompanied by Stephen, Cathedral organist Andrew Skelly, and musicians from across the diocese.

Hymns included, 'What a beautiful name' and 'Oh praise the name,' and in his address Dean Wright said the overflow of worship was reaching out to others.

## **Cold War veteran's memoir launched**

There was standing room only on Thursday last (September 13) as family, friends and residents of Brabazon House, Dublin, attended the launch of a book by Whitechurch



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parishioner, Ted Hayes. Canon Horace McKinley launched *Sailor, Airman, Spy*, a memoir of a Cold War veteran.

**Ted Hayes signs a copy of his book under the watchful eyes of his sons, Scott and Justin.**

Hugh St Ledger, the chief executive of Brabazon and his staff had prepared for a capacity

crowd that included household names from politics, business and community.

In addition to attendees from Dublin a large contingent had travelled from Wexford where Ted and his late wife Annette had lived for more than eleven years.

Ted held the audience spellbound as he told them of his growing up in Dublin, his attendance at Mountjoy School, falling in love with his future wife Annette at the age of 13

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and following the lure of the sea to become a sailor. He told how those years as a sailor had brought him to one his favourite places Waterford, up along the coast of the UK, to the Arctic and back. He recounted joining the Royal Air Force and after training as a linguist found himself posted behind the Iron Curtain in Berlin as a spy at the height of the Cold War in Europe.

In launching the book Canon McKinley, quipped that as the book's title included the word "spy" he intended "to refer to Ted from here on in, not by his Christian name – but quite simply, as 007". He spoke of Ted's time as a volunteer on Mater Hospital Radio and his work with the Mission to Seafarers. He said Ted's book contained some extremely valuable and significant social and political (with a small "p") history too. He urged those present to buy an extra copy to give it a sister, a brother, a daughter, a cousin, an aunt, an uncle, a neighbour or a close friend as a Christmas present.

*Sailor, Airman, Spy, Memoir of a Cold War Veteran by Ted Hayes* is on sale at Brabazon and in bookshops nationwide for €10. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the Brabazon Trust.

## **China and Vatican sign provisional agreement on bishops**

A provisional agreement on the appointment of bishops has been signed by representatives of the People's Republic of China and the Holy See.

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The agreement has seen Pope Francis establish a new diocese in the country.

These latest moves signal a thawing of relations between the Church of Rome and the Communist Party of China. When the Communist Party came to power in China in 1951, diplomatic relations with the Holy See were broken up and a new Church was established, the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association (CPA), whose bishops were appointed by the Beijing Government.

The Pew Research Centre estimates that out of a total population of 1.3 billion, the number of Catholics on mainland China is around 9 million. More than half of these (5.7 million) are affiliated with the CPA.

When the CPA was founded, the Roman Catholic Church became an underground Church, and its bishops, priests, religious and active lay members were frequently imprisoned by the Communist authorities.

Such was the threat to the leadership of China's Roman Catholic Church that when John Paul II appointed Bishop Ignatius Kung Pin-Mei of Shanghai a cardinal in 1979, he did so in secret. The appointment was not made public until 1991.

It is understood that as part of the provisional agreement signed this week, seven bishops belonging to the CPA, who had previously been excommunicated by Rome, will now be recognised by the Vatican. The Vatican will have a say in the naming of bishops in China, and the Pope will have the power to veto candidates.

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International media report that China's Catholic community are extremely anxious about the move, fearing that it could lead to greater suppression of their activities as the Vatican cedes more control to Beijing and is more open about Church activities. Cardinal Joseph Zen, the former archbishop of Hong Kong, is said to be unhappy with the move, describing it as a betrayal.

## **News briefs**

**+++Praise in the Valley** - Derg Parish Church in Castlederg was dramatically transformed with light and sound last Friday evening for the Parish of Derg & Termonamongan's second annual 'Praise in the Valley' event. Following the success of last year's inaugural event, people travelled from all across the Omagh Rural Deanery and from elsewhere in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, almost filling St John's Church to capacity. The Rector, Revd Peter Ferguson, introduced and led the Service, Curate Revd Naomi Quinn led the prayers, and the worship was led by the Mark Ferguson Band whose powerful sound filled the church in Castlederg town centre. St John's was specially lit for the occasion by a professional production company, KASAT, who also looked after the sound for the Service. The guest speaker was the Rector of Magheralin Parish, Revd Simon Genoe, who spoke on Psalm 84, 'How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts'. The Rector's thoughts have already turned to next year's 'Praise in the Valley', and he is advising people to keep an eye out for future events.

**+++Enniskillen back to church** - Yesterday there was a Back To Church Sunday and Bell Ringers Service in St.

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Macartin's cathedral, Enniskillen, with the dedication of new stained glass window.

**+++Deacon for Dublin** - In Christ Church cathedral yesterday afternoon the Archbishop of Dublin ordained Graham Jones to the diaconate to serve in Kilternan parish where the rector is the Revd Rob Clements.

**+++Canon at St Patrick's** - Yesterday at Evensong the Revd Jennifer McWhirter, Priest-in-Charge of the Killala group of parishes, was installed as Prebendary of Kilmactalway in St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, in succession to the Revd Gary Hastings who is now Rector of Holy Trinity, Killiney, in the Diocese of Dublin.

**+++Limerick Cathedral Friends' Service** - The Dean of St Patrick's, Dr William Morton, was in Limerick where he will be the preacher at the Friends Festival Service in St Mary's cathedral.

**+++Garda Band play for Age Concern** - On Thursday evening at 7.30pm Whitechurch parish in Co. Dublin will host an All Age Concert featuring the Garda Band in aid of the recent revamping of the church sound system: tickets from the Parish Office at 01-4934972.

**+++Living Worship Dublin seminar** - On Saturday 29 September Church Music Dublin, will host 'Living Worship – Hymn playing Seminar' with Peter Barley in **Monkstown parish church**, Co. Dublin, from 10am to 12.45pm. Peter will discuss the elements essential for leading hymns and there here will be an opportunity for attendees to play a hymn, if wished. The cost will be €10, including

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refreshments. More details may be had at [www.churchmusicdublin.org/living-worship](http://www.churchmusicdublin.org/living-worship)

**+++Asylum seekers/refugees resource updated** - The Church of Ireland Refugee Working Groups have updated their resource on supporting asylum seekers and refugees, which highlights opportunities to become more involved in this area of ministry and service. This is now available [here](#). The resource covers: • examples of the Church's current and past responses to the refugee crisis; • how members of the Church can offer support for asylum seekers and refugees; • definitions, statistics and processes for asylum and refugee resettlement; and • responses by associated missionary societies and ecumenical networks. A growing number of parishes and cathedrals across the island of Ireland are working with and supporting asylum seekers and refugees in their communities. The Church – at several levels – also responds through financial appeals, working with other organisations at home and abroad, and overseas visits to encourage people who have been displaced and are living away from their homes.

**+++Down & Dromore clergy conference** - The bi-annual Down and Dromore Clergy Conference will take place in the Central Hotel, Donegal, from 8 –11 October 2018. Please pray for the conference which is a time for worship, fellowship and teaching. This year Bishop Harold Miller will give the evening Bible readings and the conference will hear from the following speakers: Canon Dr Christina Baxter CBE, Fr Mark Ephrem, Bishop Ken Good, Bishop Bill Love, Mr Peter Lynas, Revd Dr Charles McMullen, Revd Dr Heather Morris and Dr Jasper Rutherford.

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### **+++Building Blocks Children's Ministry Conference -**

Building Blocks is an annual conference to support those working with children in their local church, community or school and to encourage others to be involved in this vital ministry. It will be a day packed with useful resources, inspirational ideas and stimulating workshops! The speaker is Victoria Beech who has 20 years experience of working with children and loves finding fun, creative ways of sharing God with them. She is the creator of all the [GodVenture](#) products and ideas. She also runs GodVenture Family Activity Workshops for families to be inspired in their faith at home together. When: Saturday 10 November 2018 from 9.30 am –4.00 pm. Where: St. Andrew's College, Booterstown Avenue, Blackrock, Ireland. [View Map](#) Download the brochure [here](#). The Building Blocks Conference is organised by children's ministry leaders from a broad spectrum of Christian Churches and organisations throughout Ireland.

The logo for CNI Church News Ireland is displayed within a white rounded square with a blue border. The text 'CNI' is in a large, bold, blue serif font at the top. Below it, the words 'CHURCH', 'NEWS', and 'IRELAND' are stacked in a smaller, blue, all-caps serif font.

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