



The Very Revd William Morton is installed as Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral by the Precentor, Canon Peter Campion.

Warm welcome for new Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

The Very Revd Dr William Morton was installed as Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday last, September 24. The Dean was installed by

the Precentor, Canon Peter Campion, before a congregation of over 500 people which included President Michael D Higgins.

Also present was the Lord Mayor of Dublin Brendan Carr, the Taoiseach's Aid de Camp, the First Minister of Northern Ireland, Arlene Foster, the Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland Martin McGuinness, Assistant Commissioner of An Garda Síochána Jack Nolan and members of the Diplomatic Corps. The Church of Ireland and Catholic Archbishops of Dublin, the Most Revd Michael Jackson, and the Most Revd Diarmuid Martin were among the very large number of clergy in attendance.

The service was sung by the combined choirs of St Patrick's Cathedral and St Columb's Cathedral in Derry which included the Dean's sons Patrick, Nicky and Connor. The Dean and his wife Rosemary received a warm welcome from the cathedral community and were also joined by an enormous number of friends and well wishers from St Columb's Cathedral, where Dean Morton had been Dean before his appointment to St Patrick's Cathedral, and from the wider Diocese of Derry and Raphoe.

The preacher was the Venerable Scott Harte, retired Archdeacon of Raphoe, who paid tribute to the new Dean's involvement in transforming relationships and working towards a brighter future in Derry. His address is available on this site today.

Sr Consilio & Éamonn Meehan receive St Patrick medal for mercy

The Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin, has been overwhelmed by the stories and examples of goodness, kindness and mercy he has heard of individuals who put the corporal and spiritual works of mercy into practice in their daily lives.

The Archbishop invited people to share with him the names and work of individuals putting mercy into practice so that they could be remembered at a special #BeMercy Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday evening in St Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh.

During the Mass, Mercy nun, Sr Consilio Fitzgerald and Trócaire director, Éamonn Meehan, received the St Patrick's medal on

behalf of all those who are ‘doing mercy’ in Ireland today.

The Archbishop said Sr Consilio had shown such powerful leadership in the work of mercy through her teams at Cuan Mhuire centres all over the country while Éamonn Meehan and Trócaire had for more than forty years been doing the work of mercy and justice on our behalf all around the world.

In his homily, Archbishop Martin said he had been told about people of all ages who are reaching out in love and charity, for example, to the poor and needy, to the sick and elderly, to the anxious and the troubled.

Of Sr Consilio and Cuan Mhuire’s work, the Archbishop said, “They reach out to women and men with addictions, particularly to alcohol and drugs – it is truly a work of God’s mercy. By being merciful and loving to those who have lost control of their lives and their addiction, Cuan Mhuire provides a space where people can humbly admit their need for help and support and for grace outside of themselves to put their lives back together again.”

Noting that ‘Trócaire’ means ‘mercy’, he said the Catholic agency helps to restore dignity to those who have to flee their homes and villages because of war, persecution and violence.

“Trócaire is there in the aftermath of natural disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis or hurricanes to help people pick up the pieces and begin again. This is indeed the work of mercy,” Dr Martin said.

But he stressed that Sr Consilio and Éamonn Meehan were not receiving the medal for themselves, or even for their organisations.

“They are receiving it on behalf of the hundreds, thousands of people who are doing the work of mercy among us every day, often without any recognition or praise – people that you and I know who are angels of mercy, bringing love, joy, compassion and hope into our broken world.”

He observed that a “startling feature” of so many of the examples he had been given is that most people do their works of mercy without wanting any recognition or reward – “they care gently behind the scenes, bringing the merciful love of Christ and the joy of the Gospel to those who need it most”.

“In particular I am struck by the generosity of spirit which characterises the voluntarism amongst our young people, our mothers and fathers who every day, within our very own communities, give of their personal time in order to manage schools, sporting clubs, youth associations as well as the Church at parish level,” the Archbishop of Armagh said.

Church leaders welcome Ardoyne parades agreement

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar, has praised those involved and welcomed the resolution of the Twaddell Avenue dispute. He has also urged for equal energy to be given to strengthening community relationships in the area.

“I welcome the agreement that has been reached between the lodges and residents of Twaddell Avenue after three years of dispute, and pray that it might now find peaceful resolution as we look forward to the future.

“For all concerned this has been a long-running and seemingly intractable situation. For this

reason I give thanks for the dedication, patience and persistence of all involved in bringing these negotiations to a resolution.

“What will now be important, as we move forward, is for equal energy and persistence to be given to strengthening community relationships across the whole community,” Dr. Sellar said.

The Church of Ireland Bishop of Connor and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor have welcomed news that an agreement has been reached to end the Ardoyne parade dispute.

In a joint statement the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy and the Most Rev Noel Treanor said: “We welcome news that both sides involved in this long-running dispute have reached agreement.

“We would like to pay tribute to all those who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring this situation to a peaceful conclusion, allowing this area of north Belfast to continue on its journey of reconciliation.

“We continue to pray for all those who strive towards peace and a shared future in the area.”

See also -

Ardoyne parade deal: First Minister Arlene Foster welcomes agreement to end dispute -

[BelfastTelegraph.co.uk](http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk)

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/ardoyn-parade-deal-first-minister-arlene-foster-welcomes-agreement-to-end-dispute-35074299.html>

Former priest and journalist's new role with Association of Catholic Priests

A former priest of the Archdiocese of Tuam, now working as a freelance journalist, has taken over an important administrative role in the Association of Catholic Priests (ACP).

Liamy McNally, a native of Westport, took on the role as administrative secretary of the ACP from September 1.

At present, the association has over 1,100 members, which comprises over 30 per cent of all Irish priests.

One of the ACP leadership team, Fr. Brendan Hoban, parish priest of Moygownagh, Ballina, says he regards the appointment of an administrative secretary as 'an important step in providing an effective and permanent infrastructure of representation for Irish priests'.

He added: “In (the) six years since our foundation, we have established a strong presence among Irish priests and in the public forum.

“At this critical time for the Catholic Church in Ireland, it’s absolutely imperative that the opinions of priests be heard and we see this appointment as helping to bring the organisation and the structures of the ACP to a new level.

“We’re delighted that Liamy has agreed to be part of our team.”

Liamy McNally, now married to Ger, was ordained for the Tuam Archdiocese. He is no longer in active ministry.

In his role as a senior news reporter with Midwest Radio he won several national radio documentary awards. He is no longer involved with the station.

Mr. McNally has contributed widely to national newspapers and radio stations. He also provides publication services for authors and has published 16 books under the CPR imprint.

He is a strong advocate for the ordination to the priesthood of married men.

Addressing last year's annual general meeting of the ACP as a guest speaker, Mr. McNally instanced a neighbouring parish where six ‘former’ priests (now married) lived and where the only one allowed to minister was the local Anglican rector.

The presence of hundreds of ‘former’ priests in Irish parishes is a ready-made part-solution to the present scarcity of priests, he argued.

He pointed out how rural Ireland was being neglected by both the State and the Catholic Church.

Continuing, Mr. McNally referred to the fact that of late the State has removed garda barracks and post offices from the rural landscape.

Now the Church is abandoning rural churches because of the lack of priests. He feels that married priests would bring particular and special gifts to the Christian community.

Children to make history at Dublin and Glendalough 800 Launch

School children from all over Dublin and Glendalough will help make history as they become part of the launch of the United Dioceses’ 800th anniversary celebrations. Dublin and Glendalough 800 will officially begin at the annual Diocesan Service for Pupils and Teachers of Primary and Junior Schools in Christ Church Cathedral on Thursday October 13 at 11.00 am.

The celebration of the 800th anniversary of the unification of the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough will officially begin on that day and



Children playing samba drums at a previous Diocesan Service for Primary and Junior Schools.

a programme of events will continue over the coming year. Up to 600 pupils from every primary school in the dioceses are invited to attend and each school will contribute to a time capsule which will be created on the day.

The theme of the service is Living History, Living God and the preachers will look at the history of Christianity over the last 800 years but also at how the children of today are making the history of tomorrow.

Archbishop Michael Jackson will preside at the service which will also be attended by the

Anglican Bishops of the Dioceses of Spain and Lusitania (Portugal). The Anglican dioceses of Spain and of Portugal view the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough as their mother diocese dating back to Archbishop Plunket and Archbishop Gregg. The bishops will also attend Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Synods in Temple Carrig School, Greystones, on October 11. Their presence celebrates Dublin and Glendalough's connections throughout the Anglican Communion and the Porvoo Communion of Churches.

Other events coming up for Dublin and Glendalough 800 include a visit of the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral to St Mary's Church in Blessington on October 16. The choir will sing Evensong at 3.30 pm.

In November a week of events will take place around the feast of St Laurence O'Toole starting with an Ecumenical Festival Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday November 13 at 3.30 pm. People from throughout the dioceses will be invited to attend along with ecumenical and interfaith guests. The week will conclude with a special Come and Sing service in the cathedral on Sunday November 20 at 3.30 pm to which

parish choirs will be invited to sing Evensong with the cathedral choir.

In between the two services will be a Week of Exploration of 800 Years featuring talks on the eight centuries of history of the dioceses an exhibition on St Laurence O'Toole and the launch of a new downloadable trail. A History of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough will be an image based trail of objects and places of historical significance, nominated by the people in the dioceses, that traverse and highlight urban and rural areas.

For information on the history of Dublin and Glendalough [click here](#).

News briefs

+++ Worship yesterday - In the morning the Bishop of Cork presided at the Patronal Festival Service in St Fin Barre's cathedral where the preacher was the Dean of Christ Church, Dublin, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne. In the afternoon in Christ Church cathedral, the Archbishop of Dublin raised two deacons to the priesthood. The Revd Kevin Conroy will serve as curate in Dalkey and the Revd Nigel Pierpont will be curate in Taney.

The address at the service was given by Dr Mary McAleese. In the evening David Leigh continued with his series of organ recitals in St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, to mark the centenary of the death of Max Reger.

+++ C of I diocesan synods - The autumn season of diocesan synods began on Saturday with the Tuam, Killala & Achonry Synod in Tuam. On Wednesday the Connor Synod will be held in Carrickfergus Methodist Church and on Thursday the Clogher Synod will meet in Monaghan.

+++ Episcopal Institute Lecture - The Rev Professor Mike Higton, Professor in the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University, will offer the first Annual Scottish Episcopal Institute Lecture on Thursday 20 October 2016 at 4pm in the Martin Hall, New College, Edinburgh. The lecture will be on 'Teaching and Witness in the Life of the Church'. More details available [here](#)

+++ Biblical Association lecture - On Saturday the Annual Lecture of the Biblical Association of the Church of Ireland was given in Kill o' the Grange parish hall. Dr David Shepherd from TCD's Loyola Institute spoke on 'Rethinking

Refugees: Old Testament Wisdom for a World in Turmoil'. The lecture was followed by the BACI AGM.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Thousands march on Dublin in pro-choice rally

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/thousands-march-on-dublin-in-pro-choice-rally-1.2804607>

Fine Gael risks losing seats as Kenny 'ignores women' over abortion laws

[Independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/fine-gael-risks-losing-seats-as-kenny-ignores-women-over-abortion-laws-35076319.html>

More press officers at Stormont than Scotland or Wales

Irish News

The Stormont executive employs more press officers than the devolved governments in both Scotland and Wales. It emerges just days after deputy first minister played down staffing levels as he defended the appointment of a new £75,000-a-year press secretary. Taking questions from MLAs in the assembly, Martin McGuinness said there are 55 press officers working in government press offices.

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/09/22/news/stormont-press-officers-outnumber-scottish-and-welsh-governments-704811>

'We're losing the Messis and Ronaldos of education - Irish colleges need more funding'

The Journal.ie

<http://www.thejournal.ie/irish-university-funding-luke-oneill-trinity-college-2-2991979-Sep2016/>

S Exp

Report on Archbishop of Canterbury's personal message to the National Association for Children of Alcoholics, published earlier this month, where he wrote about being the child of an alcoholic.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/714042/Archbishop-Canterbury-Justin-Welby-alcoholic-father-Gavin>

BBC

Report on this weekend's commemoration of the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Stamford Bridge in East Yorkshire which saw an army led by the Saxon King Harold defeat a group of Viking invaders. Article notes the Archbishop of York attended as a guest and was given a tour of the battlefield.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-37462908>

Lincolnshire Echo

Report that Lincolnshire police force has confirmed that it is looking into claims surrounding the Cathedral School in Lincoln as part of an investigation, Operation Redstone. Article notes the investigation was launched after "a number of concerns" were referred to Lincolnshire Police in 2015 following a review of past safeguarding cases by the Diocese of Lincoln.

<http://m.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/police-probe-alleged-historic-sex-abuse-at-lincoln-cathedral-school/story-29745603-detail/story.html>

BBC

Report that Dr Michael Ipgrave has been installed as the new bishop of Lichfield which covers Staffordshire, Shropshire and the Black Country. He was installed at a service in Lichfield Cathedral after completing a 40-mile pilgrimage from Stoke-on-Trent.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-37461331>

S Times

Report on further opposition to a proposed wind farm in the Scottish Borders, on land owned by the church near Hawick, and supported by the Church Commissioners. Article notes Jessica McCreadie, 15, is opposing plans by RES, a renewable energy firm, to build 13 turbines and has urged ministers to act amid concern that the government's drive for onshore wind is "ruining the beautiful scenery". A spokesman for the Church Commissioners is quoted: "In line with climate change policy and the switch to a low-carbon economy, the commissioners support the application by RES to build wind turbines at Highlee Hill".

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/teen-spirit-over-turbines-plan-pfq6m0w2s>

Exp

Further report on a new network of Anglican churches, outside the control of the Church of England, to be launched by Anglican Mission in England (AMiE). Includes comment from the CofE.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/714043/Church-of-England-split-250-NEW-hardline-Anglican-churches-by-2050-anglican-mission>

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