



Mission to Seafarers launch woolly hat fundraising campaign

The Anglican mission agency Mission to Seafarers is once again running its innovative Woolly Hat Day fundraising campaign by urging people to wear a woolly hat on Friday 14 October. The Mission to Seafarers is the world's largest maritime welfare charity and is held in

high regard by the international shipping communities for the support it provides to seafarers across the world. They have raised thousands of pounds through previous Woolly Hat Days and hope to raise 15,000 through next month's event.

Supporters are encouraged to hold Woolly Hat Day events and to promote the agency as a way of raising both funds and awareness.

“Giving hats to seafarers is a genuine act of kindness, appreciation and hospitality towards those who are away from home for many months and who often operate in harsh conditions,” the mission agency's secretary general, Andrew Wright, said. “Given the speed at which they are taken, gifts of woolly hats continue to be very much appreciated by seafarers.”

And the mission's director of development, Jos Standerwick, explained the thinking behind the campaign: “Woolly hats have become synonymous with seafarers, with people knitting hats for our men and women of the sea for hundreds of years. It seems only fitting that the Mission and The Campaign for Wool team up again to raise vital funds for the Mission's work and to get the public knitting!

“Whether people tweet a fun photo of themselves in their woolly hats, or turn their hands to knitting, the Mission could not hold this day without the support from so many dedicated organisations and individuals, so thank you.”

The fundraising day receives widespread support from the shipping community who use it to organise their own fund-raising events for the charity.

“This year's Woolly Hat Day has already received great support from companies whose business relies on seafarers,” the agency’s corporate development manager Laura Brown said.

“Offices, ports and shipping companies have already signed up to stage a fun event around the theme of Woolly Hats. Some are holding sweepstakes, others bake sales and we even have the support of the retailers who are decorating their shop fronts in a maritime theme! We are asking people to let their imagination go overboard to raise funds for seafarers and their families in a time of need.”

- Further information about Woolly Hat day can be found on [the Mission to Seafarers website](#).

Identity focus of Belfast talk by former NI born diplomat and UK Ambassador to Holy See

Rethinking Conflict would like to invite you to a keynote address on October 14 2016 by Francis Campbell, Vice Chancellor of St Mary's University, London.

Francis' address will be on 'Identity and its complexity in a changing world'.

Since 1997 Francis has been as a member of HM Diplomatic Service. Postings covered the European Union, the United Nations Security Council in New York, Italy and at the FCO in London. Between 1999 and 2003, he served on the staff of the then Prime Minister Tony Blair, first as a Policy Adviser in the No 10 Policy Unit and then as a Private Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He also served on secondment with Amnesty International as the Senior Director of Policy. Between 2005 and 2011 he served as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Holy See and he served as Deputy High Commissioner in Pakistan, based in Karachi between 2011 and 2013.

His most recent appointment was the Head of the Policy Unit in the FCO and Director of Innovation at UKTI.

In 2014 he was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of St Mary's University, Twickenham, London. Francis has Honorary Doctorates from Fordham University (New York), Queen's University (Belfast), Steubenville University (Ohio) and the Pakistan Institute of Business and Technology (Karachi), as well as an Honorary Fellow from St Edmund's College, Cambridge University, and the President's Medal from the Catholic University of America.

The lecture will be at 6pm preceded by light refreshments in the Auditorium at the Skainos Centre, Belfast, at 5.30pm. Anyone interested is asked to confirm attendance to Joyce at joyce@rethinkingconflict.com

Former President of Ireland gives address as two new C of I priests ordained

Former president of Ireland, Mary McAleese, gave the keynote address at the ordination on

Sunday of two new priests for the Church of Ireland diocese of Dublin and Glendalough.

Rev Nigel Pierpoint and the Rev Kevin Conroy were ordained to the priesthood in Christ Church Cathedral by Archbishop Michael Jackson.

Rev Pierpoint has been ordained for curacy of Taney Parish while Rev Kevin Conroy has been ordained for curacy in Dalkey.

In her reflection, Professor McAleese paid tribute to the two priests saying that “In that Ireland where so many have turned away, Kevin and Nigel answered: ‘Here I am Lord’.”

She said that anyone who thinks that answer was easy need only look at the courage it must have taken to “change the course of their lives so dramatically, leave behind careers, to explain to families and friends, to blur the old distinctions of difference, to commit to a testing internship, serious studies and most important of all to commit to a future as signs of contradiction, by volunteering to join this most endangered of species – ministers of the gospel, ordained priests, men of God, servants of the People of God.”

She noted that the hard-earned peace and relative prosperity of 21st century Ireland had made the country “one of the more civilised countries on this troubled earth”.

Professor McAleese said that where once communal life was characterised by a resilient faith, today many believers carry a grief and a loss of innocence in faith, in dogma, in religious institutions, that is captured almost prophetically in the final stanza of the Aisling poem Domhnall Og and she quoted the poem’s words.

“Bhain to thoir agus bhain to thiar diom/ Bhain to an ghealach gheal is an ghrian diom/ Bhain to an croi seo bhi i lar mo chliebhe diom/Is nac ri-mhor e m’fhaitios gur bhain to Dia diom.”

“You have taken the east from me and the west/ you have taken the moon from me and the stars/ you have taken the heart from within me/ and my greatest fear is that you have taken my very God from me.”

Professor McAleese said that in the grinding teeth of those storms of doubt and cynicism “these two men did not surrender to any counsel of despair. Instead they stepped out of the

speeding mainstream and stepped up, 'Here I am Lord'," she said.

Styles of spirituality in new issue of Search, a C of I journal

"Search: A Church of Ireland Journal" will be out early in the first week in October.

This edition includes no less than ten articles on different styles of spirituality or 'approaches to God' as we might call them. The editor remarks that while the pilgrim paths might appear initially to be many, readers will find that they have more in common than expected. The goal, after all, is the same. On the evidence of these articles, one seeker will easily recognise another on the way.

The first article, 'Walking the Labyrinth', by Lauren Artress of San Francisco's Grace Cathedral, encourages readers to join her in discovering the deep rewards of this ancient practice, whether in Chartres or the many locations to which it has spread. Returning home, we join Bishop Richard Henderson, always in demand to lead retreats of quiet days, to share in his preparations for such an event.

Two contributors offer views on the arts and religion: Anne Thurston explores three Seamus Heaney poems in relation to a Gospel story, noting the poet's admirable sensitivity to God at work in human goodness. And Br. Cyprian Love, organist at Glenstal Abbey, offers further food for reflection in 'Music as watching for Christ'.

The aim in this issue has been to offer a wide a variety of approach. It takes readers as far as the Eastern Mediterranean to learn from Patrick Comerford of his experience of the Orthodox tradition, and then returns to Northern Ireland for articles related to both New Wine and Affirming Catholicism from David McClay and George Irwin respectively.

Voices in Dublin, those of Eimhin Walshe and Greg Fromholz, chip in from our National Cathedral and New Expressions, both writers being deeply concerned to draw seekers alienated by institutional church life into a transformative experience of worship. The concluding article on 'Centering Prayer' by Carol Casey relates helpfully to the earlier contributions.

Sad to say, the book reviews in this issue will be the last from reviews editor, Stephen Farrell, who

over the past three years has filled the role with distinction. Readers will rightly look forward to those commissioned by Ray Refaussé, formerly director of the RCB Library, who succeeds him.

National Flower Festival 2017 will take place in Ardee

The AOIFA National Flower Festival 2017 will take place in Ardee – bringing potentially thousands of visitors to the town over three days next June.

The 2017 festival, entitled ‘Celtic Way’, will come to Ardee two years after it’s last outing in Ennis, Co. Clare. AOIFA is the Irish Association of Irish Floral Artists and comprises of 90 clubs across the country and has around 6,000 members in total.

Every two years, they nominate a charity to lend their valuable support to and their chosen charity for the 2017-2019 cycle will benefit from all funds raised at the event.

In 2015, the festival was held at Ennis Cathedral and St Columbia’s Church of Ireland in the town. In Ardee, the main sites of the festival will be the Church of the Nativity of Our Lady on John Street



and St Mary's Church of Ireland on Market Street.

Two years ago, more than 100 floral exhibits were on display across the two churches and a similar number will be on display in Ardee. Back then, RTE Sport's Marty Morrissey opened the festival.

It is expected that Ardee will see at least 4,000 visitors – the number that visited Ennis two years ago – over the weekend but local co-ordinators are hopeful of much more coming to the town.

The festival will also provide the backdrop for a host of other events throughout the weekend – with organisers working closely with local sports

clubs and other community groups to put on events that the whole family can enjoy.

Cathedral and choral



The Fifteenth Dublin International Symposium on Jonathan Swift

On Saturday, 15 October from 2 o'clock there will be an afternoon of lectures focusing on the life and work of the most famous Dean of Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

This event is free of charge, but as places are limited advance registration is essential. The symposium will be held in the Cathedral Deanery. This year's talks include:

Swift among the Locusts by Dr. Lucinda Cole, Associate Professor English, University of Illinois

'Domestic Man'? Swift and the Eighteenth-century Home by Dr. Karen Lipsedge, Associate Professor of English, Kingston University, London.

Restaging Swift: Theatrical Adaptations in the Eighteenth Century by Dr. David O'Shaughnessy, Assistant Professor of English, Trinity College, Dublin

Handel and Swift: An Imagined Encounter by Dr. Eibhear Walshe, Senior Lecturer in English, University College, Cork

The respondent this year is Dr. Alan Downie, Professor of English, Goldsmiths, University of London

Register at -

https://stpatrickscathedral.digitickets.co.uk/event/1802049?catID=6441&_ga=1.129214794.716905184.1467379710&mc_cid=3b58c0f6d0&mc_eid=2bb9d00158

Book now advice for Christ Church Carols by Candlelight 2016



Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin advises that tickets for the enormously popular 'Carols by Candlelight' are selling very quickly. Their message is - Book yours NOW to avoid disappointment.

The invitation continues - There's no better way of getting in the Christmas spirit. Come along to the stunning surroundings of Christ Church Cathedral with family, friends or colleagues and enjoy a wonderful festive evening.

We look forward to welcoming you to the
Cathedral on:

Tuesday 6th December

Buy tickets for Tuesday [here](#)

or,

Wednesday 7th December

Buy tickets for Wednesday [here](#)

or,

Thursday 8th December

Buy tickets for Thursday [here](#)

Under the direction of Ian Keatley, Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, the choir will be accompanied by organist and composer, David Bremner. Singing a wide variety of classic carols and modern favourites, the renowned choir will inspire and entertain, whilst the rousing audience carols will really get you into the Christmas spirit. Complimentary Festive Refreshments will be served during the interval. Sing along with old favorites such as O Come, All Ye Faithful, be inspired by glorious choral gems such as Good King Wenceslas, all topped off with a magical selection of popular Christmas tunes, sung by the stellar voices of the Cathedral Choir in a beautiful candle-lit setting.,.,and there

are Complimentary Festive Refreshments during the interval

News briefs

+++ Thinking Aloud 1 - Theology and Ethics in the Public Square. Led by Rev. Dr. Johnston McMaster. The topic is "Ending Public Exclusion - Good News for the LGBT Community ?"

The second of a new series hosted by Belfast South Methodist, of informal discussions of public theology led by Rev. Dr. Johnston McMaster. Tea/ coffee available. All Welcome. Monday, 10 October, 2016 - 19:30 to 21:00 in Agape Centre, 238 Lisburn Road Bt9 6GF. Website with Further Details: <http://www.belfastsouth.org>

+++ Thinking aloud 2 - Lord Alderdice speaking on the topic "Defending Positions or Venturing Out in Faith: The Challenge of Inter-Faith Engagement". Lord Alderdice is currently Director of the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict, Chairman of the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building and Vice Chair of the International Dialogue Initiative. In these roles he has been involved in a number of significant inter-faith dialogues aimed at

addressing conflict and improving understanding.
Event Date: Thursday, 20 October, 2016 -19:30
to 21:00 in Agape Centre, 238 Lisburn Road Bt9
6GF. Website with Further Details: [http://
www.belfastsouth.org](http://www.belfastsouth.org)

+++ North Strand Wedding outfit exhibition -

Drumcondra and North Strand are celebrating 120 years of the union of their parishes with a wedding outfit exhibition. The exhibition will feature wedding outfits down through the decades as well as a display of wedding photographs. It will take place in North Strand Church, North Strand Road, Dublin, from Friday September 30 to Sunday October 2.

Preparations for the exciting weekend are gathering momentum and the organisers have received great interest from all over the Dioceses. They have been offered wedding outfits from many decades but are still seeking items from the 1940s. They are also still hoping to hear from anyone who has photos of weddings that took place in either Drumcondra Church or North Strand Church to include in the display for the weekend. The exhibition will be officially opened on Friday September 30. Throughout the weekend it will open from 5pm to 8pm on Friday; 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.

+++ Michaelmas New Law Term Service - The annual service will be held in St Michan's Church, Church Street, Dublin 7 on Monday 3 October next at 10.15 am. The Preacher will be the Revd Dr Donald Watts, Clerk Emeritus of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

+++ Peata Therapy Dogs service - Peata Therapy Dogs celebrate 20 years of service with a special Service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday October 4 at 2pm in Christ Church Cathedral. All dogs are welcome to attend and Archbishop Michael Jackson will give the address. Peata is a voluntary organisation which provides a pet therapy service to caring institutions. Its visiting scheme involves approved volunteers and their dogs who generally pay weekly visits.

+++ Lisburn institution - The institution of the Rev Arthur Young as incumbent of St Paul's Parish, Lisburn, will take place on Thursday October 20 at 8pm. Arthur is currently rector of Kill o' the Grange Parish, Diocese of Dublin.

+++ Kilbride institution - The Rev Canon David Humphries, currently Incumbent of the Parish of Stormont, Diocese of Down and Dromore, will be instituted as Incumbent of the Parish of Kilbride, Diocese of Connor, on Tuesday November 8 at 8pm.

+++ Institution at Nenagh - The Rev'd Roderick Smyth, who likes to be known as Rod, was instituted as Rector of the Nenagh Union of Parishes on Friday 16th September 2016 at St. Mary's Nenagh. It was a very full church and a very joyful occasion for both the diocese and the Nenagh Union. Rod has been serving as Curate of St. John's Malone, in Belfast and his Rector, The Rev'd Canon Robert Jones preached. Born and brought up in Belfast, Rod worked in education, and was Head of Senior School at Bangor Academy and Sixth Form College. He has also for many years, been an examiner with the Council for the Curriculum and Examination Assessment, the statutory body responsible for administering GCSE, AS and A level examinations in Northern Ireland. He has also been a chorister of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, where he was a Bass Lay Clerk, and parish organist in several parishes.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Free Presbyterian minister defends protest against Catholic priest being installed at St Anne's ...

Belfast Live

“Building upon the strong associations between the **Church of Ireland** and the Catholic Church, visibly manifested in the 1998 joint partnership ...

<http://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/belfast-news/free-presbyterian-minister-defends-protest-11937174>

Parents left shocked after primary school pupils given 'inappropriate' Christian flyer

Belfast Telegraph

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/parents-left-shocked-after-primary-school-pupils-given-inappropriate-christian-flyer-35080372.html?utm_source=ipad_share&utm_medium=ipad_app&utm_campaign=clickbacks

Transfer of schools away from religious control on fast-track - Irish Independent -- Mon, 26 Sep 2016

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/education/transfer-of-schools-away-from-religious-control-on-fasttrack-35078183.html>

Education and religion - Irish Times -- Mon, 26 Sep 2016

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/letters/education-and-religion-1.2804631>

Mary Lou McDonald says politicians cannot 'run away' from abortion issue - Irish Examiner -- Sat, 24

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/mary-lou-mcdonald-says-politicians-cannot-run-away-from-abortion-issue-756255.html>

Citizens' assembly on abortion to meet next month - Irish Times -- Mon, 26 Sep 2016

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/citizens-assembly-on-abortion-to-meet-next-month-1.2806553>

Times/Christian Today

Reports that antisemitism is “deeply entrenched” in British culture and Christians are partly to blame, the Archbishop of Canterbury has said (see above). Archbishop Justin hit out at “perverted and absurd” conspiracy theories that there were Jewish plots to manipulate domestic and international affairs and said he was ashamed that the Church was also infected with the “virus” of antisemitism. In an essay for the Holocaust Educational Trust, the Archbishop described antisemitism as an “insidious evil”.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/welby-church-is-to-blame-for-antisemitism-frhx5dtcc>

Belfast Herald

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has welcomed the agreement over the north Belfast parading dispute. A deal was struck between the Orange Order and nationalist residents on Friday to end the long-running dispute over a banned march past the Ardoyne shop fronts (see above). In response to the agreement, Archbishop Justin joined with the Archbishop of Armagh, Richard Clarke, to express their support for the "significant initiative".

See also report - CNI yesterday.

Exp/Mail

Reports the extra martial affair a vicar's wife had with a homeless man she and her husband had taken in off the streets. Ivan Mascarenhas, was given the spare room in the Revd Matthew and Sandra Taylor's home, in Rushden, Northamptonshire. When the vicar and his wife found Mr Mascarenhas a place in rehab house Recovery House, Mrs Taylor continues to see Mr Mascarenhas. The article includes quotes from Matt Taylor and a spokesman for the diocese. <http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/714563/Vicar-wife-cheats-husband-homeless-man-saved-from-streets>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3807300/Vicar-s-wife-49-cheats-husband-homeless-man-taken-streets-says-felt-forbidden-wonderful-time.html>

Exp

Reports that plans by St Michael's church in Camden, north London, to apply for an alcohol licence from Camden Council look set to be scrapped or 'severely diluted' after both local police and council leaders raised concerns that turning the church into a live music venue could lead to increases in drunken violence. The list of concerns from the local police - which have called for the application to be rejected by the council - states that 'church ornaments' could be used to 'cause serious harm' during concerts.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/714483/Police-ban-vicars-plan-use-church-gig-venue-revellers-use-crucifixes-weapons>

Premier

Reports that there is a fresh bid to ensure the church where William Shakespeare was baptised and buried is protected for future generations. The church of the Holy Trinity in Stratford-upon-Avon is being relisted on the National Heritage List for England as part of commemorations

marking the 400th anniversary of The Bard's death. Tracey Crouch, Heritage Minister, said, "I'm delighted that so many sites associated with our nation's strong theatrical heritage will now be protected."

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Fresh-protection-for-Shakespeare-baptism-church>

Blogs

Think Theology: An invitation to the sceptical

[http://thinktheology.co.uk/blog/article/
an-invitation-to-the-sceptical](http://thinktheology.co.uk/blog/article/an-invitation-to-the-sceptical)

Law and Religion UK: Lobbying the Lords on HS2

[http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/09/26/
lobbying-the-lords-on-hs2/](http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/09/26/lobbying-the-lords-on-hs2/)

Threads:

Hashtag blessed:

<https://www.threadsuk.com/hashtagblessed>

Can I be a Christian and have an iPhone 7?

[https://www.threadsuk.com/can-i-be-a-christian-
and-have-an-iphone-7](https://www.threadsuk.com/can-i-be-a-christian-and-have-an-iphone-7)

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