



***Marching along the highway for the border with Austria, out of Budapest***

## **Refugees in Northern Ireland face destitution, warns British Red Cross**

In the last year the Red Cross has supported around 15 Syrian individuals and families in Belfast

Some refugees in Northern Ireland are facing destitution and have problems in accessing benefits and other support, the British Red Cross warned.

Applicants for asylum are not entitled to state benefits until their claim has been dealt with. Instead they are offered housing and a cash allowance.

In the last year the Red Cross has supported around 15 Syrian individuals and families in Belfast, as well as over 300 people from other countries affected by war and conflict, particularly Somalia and Sudan.

Free English classes should be provided to help integrate newcomers and a long- term commitment is needed to fund their settlement, the aid agency added.

Neil McKittrick, refugee support manager, said: "We've seen people with no shoes, no coat, nowhere to sleep, heavily pregnant women and those with small children."

Northern Ireland's ministerial Executive this year provided a Crisis Fund for vulnerable migrants and ensured that all asylum seekers have access to primary and secondary healthcare.

Mr McKittrick added: "We signpost and advise people, who struggle to understand the complicated asylum process, with limited or no English.

"We strongly argue that destitution should never be an outcome of the asylum system, however for a number of reasons, some people do find themselves completely destitute."

According to the Home Office, asylum seekers can ask for somewhere to live, a cash allowance worth £36.95 per person per week or both.

Mr McKittrick said: "We are able to help them for a limited period of time by providing a £10 weekly voucher for food.

"Occasionally, we are able to reunite a family separated by conflict. Not knowing the fate or whereabouts of family members is one of the most distressing aspects of their situation for many refugees and asylum seekers."

He called for a refugee integration strategy for Northern Ireland; it is the only UK region not to have one.

"For people arriving from Syria, or any other conflict zone, there needs to be a long-term commitment to funding their settlement and integration in our community so we can properly meet their needs.

"Those who have been granted refugee status should not have to cope with delays in the benefit system during their transition period and should never have to face destitution.

"It would also be practical for those who arrive as or become refugees to have access to free English classes to assist with their integration."

## **Largest Irish Pilgrimage departs for Lourdes from Dublin diocese**

2,000 people departed from Dublin airport yesterday morning (Monday) as part of the largest annual pilgrimage to leave Ireland for the French Marian Shrine of Lourdes.

The 66<sup>th</sup> Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage runs until Saturday and is led by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin.

From 6am yesterday morning seven specially chartered flights have been leaving Dublin airport with 175 sick pilgrims, 52 volunteer nurses and 8 doctors and 560 volunteer helpers and 300 young people and students as well as parish groupings.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin is leading the Pilgrimage for the 12<sup>th</sup> time, having first travelled as a seminarian. The Pastoral theme of this year's Pilgrimage is "The Joy of Mission".

Archbishop Martin said the Lourdes Pilgrimage was extraordinary in how it could bring together so many and impress so many; "from strong believers to the plain curious, and even perhaps the cynical." He will celebrate the Opening Mass at the Grotto with the entire group this morning.

Director, Fr. Martin Noone, said that all involved with the pilgrimage were greatly encouraged this year by an increase in interest in Lourdes, particularly from parishes and schools. Fr. Noone said; "the fact that 300 students and young people have signed up for this pilgrimage is really heartening to all involved and gives us hope for the next 66 years." He said in his experience, almost every young person who joined in the pilgrimage over the years was

positively influenced by that experience – with many continuing to take part into adulthood – and even old age! “The connections forged with young people working as helpers and the sick and elderly is always a joyful experience for both – the older pilgrims interact with a generation which may be unfamiliar to many of them, while the young people leave with a sense of what is important and of value in life – health, hope and the sense of fulfilment that comes from going beyond ourselves and reaching out to those who need us.”

The Dublin volunteer group is made of up nurses, doctors, handmaids, brancardiers, secondary school students and voluntary helpers. 18 Dublin Parishes travel in their parish groups. 130 students from 22 secondary schools across the Diocese are taking part. Music for the pilgrimage will be led by the Dublin Lourdes choir, which has recently recorded and produced new music for the 2015 Pilgrimage. The Dublin Lourdes Folk Group has grown in both numbers and harmony over the last couple of years and will also be enhancing the liturgies in Lourdes. Throughout the Pilgrimage students taking part will blog about their experience.

While the Pilgrimage is led by the Archbishop and priests of the Archdiocese of Dublin other Irish people staying or visiting in Lourdes are invited to participate at any time during the week.

## **Dana to address 30th anniversary of Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Derry**



Pro-life activist and former MEP, Dana Rosemary Scallon, will be among the guest speakers marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Derry later this month.

To mark this occasion, the Derry Diocesan Secretariat is hosting a special renewal weekend at Termonbacca Carmelite Retreat Centre.

The weekend begins on Thursday evening 24 September with a Thanksgiving Mass in St Eugene's Cathedral in Derry City for the gift of Cursillo to the diocese.

This will be celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown and he is set to address the missionary role of the laity in his homily.

The weekend proper opens on Friday morning at Termonbacca and continues until Sunday 27 September.

The event is primarily aimed at personal spiritual renewal and re-commitment by all those who have ever done a Cursillo weekend (known as Cursillistas) to living out what is fundamental to being a Christian.

The Cursillo movement is an apostolic movement within the Catholic Church.

It was founded in Majorca in Spain by a group of laymen in 1944, while they were refining a technique to train pilgrimage Christian leaders.



Cursillo is the original three-day movement, and has since been licensed for use by several mainline Christian denominations, some of which have retained the trademarked 'Cursillo' name, while others have modified its talks/methods and given it a different name.

The Cursillo focuses on showing Christian lay people how to become effective Christian leaders over the course of a three-day weekend.

The weekend includes fifteen talks, some given by priests and some by lay people. These talks are called 'rollos'.

The major emphasis of the weekend is to ask participants to take what they have learned back into the world, on what is known as the 'fourth day'.

The method stresses personal spiritual development, as accelerated by weekly group reunion (after the weekend).

However, the Derry Cursillo 30th anniversary celebrations will not be a traditional Cursillo weekend and therefore it is also open to anyone who might want to take some time for personal reflection, prayer and spiritual development.

Cursillo was introduced into Derry Diocese in 1985 and to date over 5,000 people have experienced a Cursillo weekend.

Fr Mike Drennan, Fr Peter McVerry, Fr Donal O'Callaghan, Rosemary Scallon (Dana), Noirin Ni Riain (singer, writer and theologian), Brendan O'Reilly (former Director National Centre for Religious Education) and Aidan Donaldson (African Aid worker) will all be speaking at the Derry weekend.

Every morning from 9am until 10am there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with directed meditations by Sr Susan Evangelist.

On Friday afternoon there will be a reconciliation service led by Bishop Donal McKeown. There will an opportunity for private confession and later in the afternoon a special healing Mass will be held at 5pm.

On Friday evening there will be an Ultreya friendship night led by visiting Spanish Cursillistas.

This event is open to those who have never done a Cursillo. On Saturday morning Fr Drennan will talk on the theme 'I am the Good Shepherd' and after that there will be a talk on the importance and value of Group Reunion.

In the marquee in the afternoon (Dana) Rosemary Scallon will speak about her faith journey.

Dana, a much loved daughter of Derry, has lived her life in the glare of the public gaze but during all that time she has never shied away from displaying her commitment to her faith.

She will be followed by Fr Donal O'Callaghan on 'Life in grace'.

On Sunday morning, Fr Peter Mc Verry SJ will deliver a talk on the theme 'Come follow me' which will no doubt touch on the outreach work he has been involved in for many years helping the destitute and homeless of Dublin. He is the author of "Jesus- a social revolutionary".

The final closing Mass will be held in St Eugene's Cathedral at 5pm on Sunday and will be celebrated by Bishop Donal Mc Keown.

## **Sienna Miller spotted at Methodist College, Belfast**

Famous actors including Sienna Miller was spotted at Methodist College, Belfast last week while filming for Lost City of Z.

The Lost City Of Z follows Percy Fawcett, who developed an obsession for the Amazon jungle. Convinced that he had discovered a lost civilisation in the jungles of Brazil, Fawcett disappeared in the 1920s while searching for the mythical city deep within the uncharted interior. Fawcett is played by Sons Of Anarchy star Charlie Hunnam.

McArthur Hall is just one of the many venues across Northern Ireland currently being used for filming. The former dining room of McArthur was transformed into a Victorian scientific lecture theatre and features in what is rapidly becoming known as “the Brad Pitt movie”, due to the involvement of Brad Pitt as one of the film’s producers. Unfortunately Brad was nowhere to be seen, much to the disappointment of a number of staff at the College.

This is not the first time that Methodist College has been used as a set for TV & film productions. In recent years, the Whitla Hall has been used for the dystopian future-based “City of Ember”, and last year the BBC broadcast “37 Days”, a three part documentary drama about the lead up to the Great War. The opening scenes were shot in the entrance hall, dining room and library of McArthur Hall.

## **Choral Evensong in Belfast to mark Queen's reign**

A special Evensong in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on September 9 will mark the day that Her Majesty The Queen becomes the longest serving Monarch in British history.

On September 9, Queen Elizabeth II will have reigned for longer than her great-great grandmother Queen Victoria, who sat on the throne for 63 years and 216 days. A prayer written especially for the occasion, approved by Her Majesty, will be said in churches and cathedrals across the UK (see below).

In St Anne's the music will reflect this historic milestone, and will include the National Anthem. Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle CBE, will be among those expected to attend the service, which begins at 5.30pm. All are welcome to this special Service of Evensong.

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## Resource ideas to help enrich worship in Connor



Connor Diocese is holding a series of three archdeaconry meetings during October to give its clergy some resourceful new ideas.

At each meeting, Canon Peter McDowell, diocesan liturgical officer, will give a presentation of liturgical resources to help enrich worship from the season of All Saints to Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Jill Hamilton, Connor Children's Project Officer, will outline some Messy Church themes and give a demonstration of imaginative games, crafts and activities.

The meetings take place as follows:

- Dalriada Archdeaconry: Tuesday October 6 in Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Ballycastle
- Belfast Archdeaconry: Thursday October 15 in St Patrick's, Jordanstown
- Connor Archdeaconry: Tuesday October 20 in All Saints' Parish Centre, Antrim

Each meeting will run from 10am until 1pm.

Parishes are also being encouraged to share resources, which will be made available in CD format and on the diocesan website.

## **Mozart in Limerick - A Leaving Certificate Guide to Piano Concerto 23**

Peter Barley, organist at St. Mary's Cathedral in Limerick, will be presenting a guide to Mozart's Piano Concerto No 23 In A K.488 in St. Mary's Cathedral Limerick on Wednesday 14th October at 12:00 Noon

The presentation will be in two parts

1. Peter will give a demonstration and talk aimed at Leaving Certificate Students involving a movement-by-movement talk on the work with musical illustration by the piano soloist and orchestra

2. This will be followed by a full performance of the concerto featuring piano soloist Stuart O'Sullivan

This is an event which should be of interest to all schools in the Limerick area. A full information sheet is available [here](#)

Booking is essential and schools can download a booking form [from here](#). Once downloaded this form can be filled in on a computer and saved in order to send it to the address on the form or printed and filled in by hand.

[http://limerick.anglican.org/news\\_detail.php?id=213](http://limerick.anglican.org/news_detail.php?id=213)

## **Perth service to launch Scottish Episcopal Institute**

Plans are well underway for the Eucharist to be held in St Ninian's Cathedral Perth on Sunday 4 October at 3pm to mark the launch of the Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI).

Staff, students, friends of the Institute and ecumenical guests from across Scotland are looking forward to this celebratory occasion, at which the Primus, the Most Rev David



Chillingworth, will preach and the Rt Rev Kevin Pearson, as Convener of the Institute Council, will preside.

SEI is the training agency for authorised ministry within the Scottish Episcopal Church, forming people for ministry in twenty-first century Scotland by exploring new ways of being for changing times. The service comes at the end of the first Residential Weekend of the academic year, at which 9 new candidates will be welcomed into the community, bringing student numbers up to 23.

All are warmly invited – but please inform Mrs Denise Brunton, SEI Administrator, by 1 October if you intend to come as there will be a reception after the service in the Chapter House. [DeniseB@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:DeniseB@scotland.anglican.org)

## **New rector instituted in Derry parish**

Parishioners from Dungiven and Bovevagh turned out in droves on Thursday evening last for the Institution of their new Rector, Rev Mark Loney.

St Eugenius' Church was filled to overflowing and scores of parishioners followed the service on a large screen erected in the nearby parish hall.

The Institution Service was led by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Ken Good, and attended by many clergy from the diocese. Among those in the congregation were the Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Cllr Michelle Knight-McQuillan, and the former East Londonderry MP William Ross.

The new Rector's wife, Jo, performed a solo at the service, accompanied by her husband. The couple's two young children, Reuben and Jemimah, were in the congregation, and Jem – misunderstanding the concept of a 'solo' – did her best to accompany her mother.

In his sermon Rev Roger Thompson congratulated the nominators on getting "a good family and a good minister". Rev Thompson is a former Rector of Kilwaughter and Cairncastle with All Saints', Craigyhill, where he first got to know Mark and Jo. Rev Loney was a curate in a neighbouring parish.

Rev Thompson said he always appreciated Mark and Jo's "love for God, their dependence upon

him for prayer, their creativity, their love for children and their sense of humour”.

## **Church of England raises £100 million for clergy retirement homes**

The Church of England has raised new finance to support the provision of housing for its growing numbers of retired clergy.

A charitable fund within the Church of England pensions board this week raised £70 million of bonds to pay for the houses with a further £30 million available to draw down in future,

The bonds, financed by the Pension Insurance Corporation, operate like a mortgage against the existing £150 million worth of clergy retirement houses, about 750 in all. Such bonds are a common method used in the world of housing associations to pay for expansion.

The "mortgage" will be paid back to the corporation from the rents paid by the clergy and support from the wider church. The clergy will pay these rents from their own pensions.

Hundreds of clergy are coming up for retirement as the 1950s and 1960s baby boomers reach

their late 50s and early 60s. Clergy usually live rent-free throughout their working lives in vicarages and rectories owned by the Church of England. The Church maintains the properties which usually have gardens and a built-in office and can be lovely places to raise families.

Clergy stipends are generally too low to allow ministers to save enough to buy a retirement house, especially with soaring property prices. So the Church considers it part of its responsibility to its dedicated servants of the cloth to make sure they are properly housed for the rest of their lives, especially as many retired clergy and bishops continue to work for free in parishes during interregnums and to allow stipendiary clergy a holiday or two.

Part of the bond will go to buy out the Church Commissioners' interest in 196 homes in the Church Housing Assistance for Retired Ministers, or CHARM scheme.

Dr Jonathan Spencer, pensions board chairman, said: "The board is committed to ensuring that it can continue to provide those retiring clergy who need it with affordable housing in retirement. We decided the time was right to look at long term capital finance to help secure the future of the retirement housing scheme. This is the next step

on our journey to build a portfolio of properties that will continue to meet future expected clergy demand."

Alan Fletcher, chair of the board's housing committee, said,

"This new long term financing arrangement will bring greater certainty over borrowing costs, by taking advantage of the current low interest rate environment."

## Media digest

### **DUP veteran McCrae reveals he received royal pardon - Irish News**

<http://www.irishnews.com/paywall/tsa/irishnews/irishnews/irishnews/news/2015/09/07/news/dup-veteran-reveals-he-received-royal-pardon-253823/content.html>

### **Almost 70 domestic violence deaths in North in past decade - Irish Times**

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/almost-70-domestic-violence-deaths-in-north-in-past-decade-1.2341960>

### **Almost 260 sex attacks in NI schools reported to police in three years - BBC News**

A total of 259 sexual offences that allegedly took place on school premises across Northern Ireland were reported to

the PSNI over the past three years, a BBC investigation finds.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-34167752>

**Paedo priest who was one of Ireland's worst sex abusers found dead -Sunday World**

<https://www.sundayworld.com/news/paedo-priest-who-was-one-of-ireland-s-worst-sex-abusers-found-dead>

**Times/Exp/Brit News Net/Int Business Times**

Reports that faith leaders have spoken out on the assisted dying bill, which will be debated in the Commons this week. The Archbishop of Canterbury is quoted (see above). He and other Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh leaders have written to every MP urging them not to pass the bill. Elsewhere, a survey of Britons over-50's shows that two thirds of them are in favour of supporting the legislation. The Bishop of Carlisle is quoted.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4549158.ece>

[http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/603301/Archbishop-Canterbury-Justin-Welby-Assisted-Dying-Bill-suicide-debate-Commons-Dignitas?\\_ga=1.6851890.1205713907.1435992710](http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/603301/Archbishop-Canterbury-Justin-Welby-Assisted-Dying-Bill-suicide-debate-Commons-Dignitas?_ga=1.6851890.1205713907.1435992710)

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/603345/Suicide-clinics-assisted-suicide-Switzerland>

<http://www.britainnews.net/index.php/sid/236488297>

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/archbishop-canterbury-justin-welby-urges-mps-reject-assisted-dying-bill-1518666>

Guard/Times/Ind/BBC/Express/FT/Mirror/Tel  
Continuing coverage of the refugee crisis.  
Chancellor Osborne says that Britain's overseas aid budget will be used to help councils house refugees from Syria. Elsewhere the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey calls for the UK to bomb IS militants in Syria and the Pope calls for Catholics to give shelter to families.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/06/austria-close-border-refugee-crisis-europe-munich-migrants>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4549300.ece>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/10000-refugees-reach-munich-and-are-greeted-with-food-water-and-teddy-bears-10488971.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34167271>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/603445/Calls-British-airstrikes-crush-Islamic-State-Syria>

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/59ab6e36-54d9-11e5-b029-b9d50a74fd14.html?FTCamp=engage/CAPI/webapp/Channel\\_Moreover//B2B#axzz3l1gEcZim](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/59ab6e36-54d9-11e5-b029-b9d50a74fd14.html?FTCamp=engage/CAPI/webapp/Channel_Moreover//B2B#axzz3l1gEcZim)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/06/pope-francis-calls-on-catholics-to-take-in-refugee-families>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/pope-says-britains-catholics-should-6391904>

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/57bcdca0-547e-11e5-b029-b9d50a74fd14.html?FTCamp=engage/CAPI/webapp/Channel\\_Moreover//B2B#axzz3l1gEcZim](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/57bcdca0-547e-11e5-b029-b9d50a74fd14.html?FTCamp=engage/CAPI/webapp/Channel_Moreover//B2B#axzz3l1gEcZim)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/germany/11847545/Migrant-crisis-Refugees-welcomed-in-Germany-like-war-heroes-as-Berlin-expects-10000-in-one-day.html>

## **Comment**

Guard/Times/Econ

Comment on the refugee crisis. Matthew d'Ancona argues that Prime Minister Cameron must balance head and heart as he address the Commons on the issue later today. In the *Times*, Libby Purves focuses on the role of religion in the crisis, while the Economist argues that the crisis has divided European Christians.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/06/david-cameron-refugee-crisis>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/libbypurves/article4549233.ece>

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/erasmus/2015/09/migrants-christianity-and-europe>



## **Ind**

The power of photo-journalism is examined, following the publication last week of the photograph of the of the dead Syrian boy refugee on a beach in Turkey. While nine people complained about the image used by the *Independent*, the article points to the political movement in the crisis seen in the immediate wake of the picture's publication.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/media/the-media-column-rightwing-papers-pay-for-the-new-press-complaints-body--but-it-is-not-their-patsy-10489010.html>

## **Guard**

Reports the reaction of a Cornerstone Baptist Church in Thame, Oxfordshire opening its doors to Syrian refugees

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/06/refugees-welcome-oxfordshire-town-grapples-with-how-to-respond>

## **Mail**

Ahead of Wednesday's celebrations marking the Queen becoming Britain's longest reign monarch, the paper publishes 63 photos spanning Her Majesty's 63 years, seven months and two days.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3224040/Long-reign-seven-happy-glorious-decades-Queen-set-Britain-s-longest-serving-monarch-devoting-life-nation.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3224040/Long-reign-seven-happy-glorious-decades-Queen-set-Britain-s-longest-serving-monarch-devoting-life-nation.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

Exp

Report that crime writer PD James has left £2.2m in her will. Included in her legacies was the bequest of a flat in Oxford to the restoration fund of St Mary Magdalen church in the city.  
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/603379/Crime-writer-Phyllis-Dorothy-James-Adam-Dalgliesh-22-million-will>

**TES**

The paper introduces its new columnist, the Revd Kate Bottley. In her first article, she writes about the importance of chaplains in further education institutions.

<https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-views/meet-our-new-fe-columnist-kate-bottley-%E2%80%98being-christian-doesn%E2%80%99t-make>