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**CNI**

## **Presbyterian Special Assembly set for Coleraine**



**View from the University of Ulster, Coleraine, over the River Bann**

Over 600 Presbyterians from across Ireland will gather in Coleraine next week (August 21 - 24) for 'Everyday Disciples', the 2017 Special Assembly that will explore what it means to be an

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‘everyday disciple’ of Jesus Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Unlike June’s General Assembly no formal business takes place at special assemblies as they are opportunities for church members to come together in a residential setting for a time of fellowship, worship and prayer, to explore and reflect on a particular aspect of church life, faith or discipleship.

Looking forward to the Special Assembly, the fifth since 1990, Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely, said, “As Christians, Jesus calls us to be His disciples in all aspects of our lives. The title and theme of our Special Assembly is in recognition of the increasing necessity for today’s followers of Jesus to be equipped by the Church to be effective disciple-makers in their various spheres of everyday life.

“Many of us however, recognise that we have perhaps concentrated too much on programmes and activities in our churches and have not been as strong on providing the essentials to facilitate making mature disciples.”

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Dr. McNeely continued, “The daily keynote addresses from our two principal speakers and the range of seminars available will help us to consider seriously the need for daily discipleship. It will also help us to understand better how we can be involved in a 21<sup>st</sup> century reformation of church and society. Being an everyday disciple is the theme I intend to develop during my year in office, challenging our Church as to how we can all respond to Luke’s call to ‘deny ourselves and take up the cross daily.’”

The two keynote speakers are both from the United States of America. Rev. Randy Pope of Perimeter Church, Atlanta, will give the morning plenary sessions on ‘How to get discipleship back in the local church’. Rev. Dr. Ray Ortlund Jnr of Immanuel Church, Nashville, Tennessee, will speak at each of the evening celebrations on the theme ‘Gospel Culture’. Local Presbyterians and other local experts in their field will deliver the seminars with worship being led by New Irish Arts.

Rev. John Kirkpatrick of Portrush Presbyterian, co-convener of the Special Assembly Task Group that is organising the event, said that every congregation had been invited to send three

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representatives, “It is going to be an inspiring week. Through praise, prayer, seminars and the daily keynote addresses we will be able to flesh out this key area of Christian life with a fresh, but strongly biblical perspective to help us adopt a more earnest attitude to discipleship,” he said.

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Co-convenor Rev. Gordon Best of Newmills Presbyterian Church in County Down added, “I hope that everyone who attends ‘Everyday Disciples’ will be uplifted and encouraged as our denomination faces up to major challenges on many fronts in today’s world. Never before has there been a greater need for all of Jesus’ followers to take seriously the call of the Great Commission to ‘Go and make disciples...’”

As part of the Church’s vision to resource whole-life disciples across PCI, a brand new discipleship resource will be unveiled at the Special Assembly. Called ‘Essentials’, this practical resource aims to help followers of Jesus reflect on and live out the essentials of everyday discipleship.

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## Over €2 million spent on Edmund Rice projects

Edmund Rice Development (ERD) helped more than 40,000 people with funds of over €2 million in the 2015–2016 period, according to its latest Impact Report.

ERD is a development agency established in 2008 in Ireland by the Congregation of Christian Brothers and governed today by an independent board of directors.

The agency provided funding and development assistance to 44 Edmund Rice Mission projects, including schools, informal education, advocacy and community engagement programmes in 13 countries across Africa, Latin America and India.

Thanking donors, funders and supporters for their part, Jenni Barrett, Chief Executive of ERD, said that “The impact of the work outlined in this report would not have been possible without the deep commitment of our valued partners in mission – the many Brothers, educators, development workers and staff whose dedication is humbling to witness.”

She said ERD looks forward to continuing to work together with partners and supporters “for

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the liberation of people and communities around the world.”

For over 200 years, education has been the focus in the tradition of Edmund Rice, but change is under way. Globally, the Edmund Rice Mission is focusing on what it describes as the “liberation of people and communities” through community engagement, education and advocacy.

The report states that 2015–2016 was a time of significant change and transition for Edmund Rice Mission.

New clusters of four communities began development work in western Zambia. This involved 18 brothers going to live among the local communities of Mongu, Luampa, Limulunga and Senanga.

They have learned the language, become integrated into the local communities and begun to engage with local people to identify the root causes of social problems in this first phase of the programme. More clusters are being formed in northern India in 2017.

In 2016 ERD conducted a full strategic review, resulting in the ERD Strategy 2017–2021.

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“ERD will ensure people living in poverty are at the centre of everything we do and every decision we make,” stated Matt Breen (outgoing Chair of ERD) and Jenni Barrett in their introduction to the report. (Mr Breen retired as chair of ERD in 2017 and Mr John Cooley has been appointed in his place.)

Governance was improved and ERD is formally “on the journey” to full compliance with the Governance Code for Community, Voluntary and Charity Organisations in Ireland.

The Impact Report shows the many ways that ERD has spent funds from private donations and agencies like Misesan Cara.

It has spent €1.1 million on 28 education projects, benefiting 19,550 people. For example, it has been involved with the Fe y Alegría school in Peru for 20 years. In South Africa Edmund Rice Camps offer young people the opportunity ‘just to be kids’ and a safe environment to help with self esteem and skills training in an environment where up to 50 percent of 15- to 24-year-olds are unemployed or have had no access to education in the past.

It spent €195,024 on 6 projects in community engagement, benefiting 13,657 people – for

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example, through access for children to school in Zambia.

It spent €371,131 on 3 advocacy projects, helping 7,775 people. This involved raising awareness of social justice issues and human rights. In India Edmund Rice International has helped with the 'Nine is Mine' movement formed by the children of India to advocate for their own rights as children.

The name comes from the demand that the Indian government honour a promise to allocate 6 per cent of GDP to education and 3 per cent to health, which comes to 9 per cent in total, hence 'Nine is Mine'.

The spend on capacity building was €330,744 for 6 projects, helping 385 people – for example, through the income-generation programme at Education for Life, Kenya.

## **Suggestions and activities by Irish inter-church environment group**

The current edition of the Eco–Congregation Ireland newsletter highlights events and suggested activities to help parishes take a greater interest in the environment.



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This features news on the Carrigrohane Union of Parishes cycling team and information on the General Synod resolution on climate change and fossil fuels. Mary Cowhig, a parishioner of Carrigaline Union of Parishes, has composed

*A Hymn of Gratitude for All Creation* for use during Creation Time – a season of reflection on the environment. Creation Time 2017 runs from 1st September to 4th October.

Bishop Richard Henderson will lead worship to celebrate Creation Time at St Senan's Church, Inniscarra, on Saturday, 30th September.

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Eco-Congregation Ireland is an initiative of the Irish Inter Church Meeting, and includes members from the Roman Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church and Religious Society of Friends.

For further information:  
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[www.ecocongregationireland.com](http://www.ecocongregationireland.com)

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

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## **Dublin cathedral's speaker series to focus on Direct Provision**

Christ Church Cathedral is hosting a new speaker series focusing on experiences of the direct provision system. 'What's the Story? Lives in Direct Provision' will give those who are currently living or have lived in the direct provision system the opportunity to share their experiences and reflect on the themes of family, home and time.

All sessions will take place in the Music Room of Christ Church Cathedral and begin at 6.30 pm.

The series launch will take place on Monday September 4. This will be followed by a reception catered by Ellie Kisyombe and friends from Our Table.

The second and third sessions take place on Monday September 11 and Monday September 18.

The sessions are free of charge but donations towards the Diocesan Refugee Housing Appeal will be gratefully received.

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Further information is available from the cathedral office on 01-6778099 or [welcome@christchurch.ie](mailto:welcome@christchurch.ie).

## 20 pairs of sore feet fund raising for Dromore's Walk of Hope



84 miles, an abnormal amount of plasters, blister treatment, pain killers and coffees and 20 pairs of sore feet later, the Via Wings Walk of Hope team made it home to Dromore.

Bishop Harold saw them off on 9 August as twenty staff and volunteers from the charity, set out to walk to Dublin to raise awareness for mental health. [Read more here.](#)

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Their latest update:

“We just want to say a massive thank you to all those who have donated this far. We have been blessed in abundance by the support, encouragement and donations we have received.

“Over the durations of the 4 days walking, we managed to raise £180.23 and €237, which is around £400 in total from our street collections.

“We are over a quarter of the way to our target of £5,000. We need your support to enable us to provide a therapeutic suite for those living with mental health issues in our local community.” [#vwintheirshoes](#) [#goingtheextramile](#)

If you would still like to donate you can do so by following this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/camp.../charity/viawings/walkofhope>

## **Knitted bible exhibition set for Edinburgh Fringe**

The Salvation Army will host a knitted bible exhibition at the Edinburgh Fringe from the 21st August featuring almost 1,000 knitted characters from 13 stories.

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Edinburgh City community church leaders Jennifer and David Gosling are holding a mini festival of music and events at their base in the heart of the world's largest arts festival, with the knitted exhibition taking centre stage.

Speaking to Premier News, Captain Jennifer Gosling said: "A few years ago my mum's home church the Salvation Army in Warrington knitted the nativity. Shortly after that I sent them a YouTube video of several other bible stories somebody else had knitted and they took up the challenge from there and knitted 13 stories.

"There's over 30 people involved with scenery making, knitting, photography and media so it's quite a team, it's grown and includes people from Dubai and Australia."

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She added during News Hour: "We're hoping people will be surprised, blessed, challenged by the stories."

The event will also feature Edinburgh bible story teller, Yorick Jackson.

Gosling also said: "Yorick Jackson is coming to do a daily tour at 2 o'clock, so that will hopefully bring the stories even more alive as people are lead around the 13 different stories."

They'll be bringing the entire collection to the Salvation Army hub, on Edinburgh's famous Pleasance, from Monday August 21st to Friday August 25th. The hub will be official venue No. 405.

## **Minister plagiarised portion of Hillary Clinton Bible devotional**

Hillary Clinton's long-time pastor has apologised for plagiarising the writings of another minister in a new Hillary Clinton Bible devotional scheduled to be released on Tuesday.

Titled Strong for a Moment Like This: The Daily Devotions of Hillary Rodham Clinton, the book

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published by Abingdon Press includes 365 of over 600 devotions Rev Bill Shillady wrote to Clinton from April 2015 through December of last year during the 2016 presidential campaign.

The United Methodist minister holds the copyright on the book, which includes a forward by Clinton herself and 11 pages of end notes crediting some source material.

It does not however credit one source from a blog post by Rev Matthew Deuel, a pastor at Mission Point Community Church in Warsaw, Indiana.

According to CNN, Rev Shillady apologised, saying he was "stunned" by the similarities between his email to Clinton and Deuel's column.

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On 9th November, the day after the election, Rev Shillady sent Clinton an email titled, "Sunday is Coming".

Rev Deuel contacted a CNN reporter last week saying some paragraphs in Rev Shillady's writings appeared to be "inspired" by a blog he wrote in March 2016.

Rev Deuel wrote in his post: "For the disciples and Christ followers in the first century, Good Friday represented the day that everything fell apart. All was lost. The momentum and hope of a man, claiming to be the Son of God, the Messiah who was supposed to change everything, had been executed."

## Press Watch

### ['I'm no Holy Joe. Or Holy Marty': Marty Morrissey to address Knock faithful](#)

Irish Times

On Friday the **Church of Ireland** Bishop of Tuam Patrick Rooke will speak at the 3pm and 8.30pm Masses on "Reformation, Remembering and ...

### [Knock to welcome over 100000 to annual Novena by end of week](#)

Mayo News



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To mark 500 years of the Reformation, Rt Revd Patrick Rooke (Bishop of Tuam, Killala & Achonry Diocese-**Church of Ireland**) will be welcomed to the ...

### [Local Church 'saves' food truck after Council blow](#)

Southern Star Newspaper

Schull's Holy Trinity **Church** took pity on Nico and Holly Runske, offering them sanctuary on **church** grounds, just yards away, with a spectacular ...

### [Crookhaven church has been serving parishioners since 1717](#)

Southern Star Newspaper

Part of the **Church** of Ireland's Kilmoie Union of **Churches** – which includes the ... He enchanted the packed, gas-lit **church** with tales of the harbour as a ... He often jokes it was either a dry ski slope for the **Irish** winter Olympics team, ... Keep up-to-date with the latest **news** from around the county with a ...

### **Fintan O'Toole: United Ireland will not be based on '50 per cent plus one'**

<https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/fintan-o-toole-united-ireland-will-not-be-based-on-50-per-cent-plus-one-1.3186234?mode=amp>

### **Unless SF ditch their red line there is no way forward**

There is no point in unionists waiting around hoping for a change of tune from Dublin on Brexit.

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<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/unless-sf-ditch-their-red-lines-direct-rule-is-the-way-forward-1-8103309>

## **Burning of poppy wreaths on bonfire vile act, says DUP**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/burning-of-poppy-wreaths-on-bonfire-vile-act-says-dup-36036734.html?utm>

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/poppy-wreaths-burnt-on-bonfire-in-derrys-bogside-36037035.html>

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