



Rory McIlroy Hoylake flag prize for Christian Aid Hollywood golf day

To mark 70 years of Christian Aid the charity is holding its first ever fundraising charity golf event.

Keen golfers are urged to sign up to be in with a chance of getting their hands on the Claret Jug!

May 8

The event will take place on Friday June 5 at Holywood Golf Club in Co Down.

Entry is £140 per four ball (men, women and mixed four-balls are welcome) This includes an evening meal. Two tee start from 12pm – 1.20pm (tee times can be downloaded [here](#)).

Excellent prizes include a Hoylake flag signed by Rory McIlroy and there will be an opportunity to view and have your photograph taken with the trophies won by Rory currently on display at Holywood.

To register contact Christian Aid 028 9064 8133 or e mail belfast@christian-aid.org.

Archbishop seeks confident long-term vision for the Church of Ireland

In his presidential address to the C of I General Synod in Armagh yesterday, the Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, encouraged members to hold to a ‘fundamental understanding of our life as a Church’ that is ‘always and everywhere relational’.



Commenting on the plight of cold-blooded massacres of those of a different religious faith or of the cynical overfilling of boats crammed with migrants from North Africa as well as the evil of human trafficking in the UK and Ireland, he said, ‘We live in a world which has become dangerously non-relational and hence dangerously unstable’.

Archbishop Clarke continued: ‘The depersonalisation of people so that they become abstract entities with whom we need have no relationship, and for whose safety and dignity we need have no concern, is something against which Christian people must always contend... Part of our task as Christian disciples is to bring

back into our world a proper sense of relatedness, rather than allow a retreat into what is, at heart, anonymised unreality.’

The Archbishop also spoke of the Long-Term Church project and said great progress had been made over the last year. ‘A significant part of the potential success of the initiative will be in supplying both coherence and also a shared, consistently understood and confident long-term vision for the Church of Ireland, one that encompasses a number of existing projects and also launches new ideas arising from the energy and thinking released by the initiative itself,’ he stated.

Dr Clarke also said that as Christians church members are called to relate to the society in which we live. “Today marks a general election in the UK, in a couple of weeks’ time there will be two referenda in the Republic of Ireland and within the near future there will also be elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly and for the Republic of Ireland’s Oireachtas.

“We are not a Church community which, for the most part, makes official declarations as to how people should vote. What we do ask is that each individual Christian disciple thinks carefully about the issues before him or her, and about

the policies being presented to them and then, without paying undue heed to the sometimes strident and petulant siren sounds that may present themselves as the dominant voice of righteousness, decide in conscience before God what they believe will truly be for the common good, the good of all,' he said.

For text of address -

<http://synod.ireland.anglican.org/2015/index.php?do=news&newsid=293>

Reports and news of General Synod 2015 are available on the Synod website;
synod@ireland.anglican.org

Archbishop Clarke in appeal over 1916 Rising and Somme tributes

The head of the Church of Ireland has asked people to approach the 1916 commemorations of the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme thoughtfully.

Alf McCreary in Belfast Telegraph - Archbishop Richard Clarke said people should look at the events "with real spiritual depth of thought, in the interests of peace rather than division".

He told the all-Ireland general synod in Armagh yesterday that: "It is of great importance that these 2016 commemorations are neither one-dimensional nor intentionally polarising."

He added: "Those who have studied the period round 1916 as history, rather than as propaganda - as I have done - know that there is far too much ambiguity and complexity in every aspect of those two events to imagine that there is any single, precise and clear-cut narrative to be found."

The Primate also hit out at human trafficking as "the basic evil strategy of tricking vulnerable people across borders through physical threat into sexual or labour exploitation which and what is, in effect, domestic slavery.

He added: "The depersonalisation of people so that they become abstract entities with whom we need have no relationship, and for whose safety and dignity we need have no concern, is something against which Christian people must always contend."

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/church-of-ireland-in-appeal-over-1916-rising-and-somme-tributes-31201898.html>

Only 15% of Church of Ireland members attend services

Average attendance at Church of Ireland services throughout the island on three Sundays in November 2013 was 58,000, representing 15 per cent of church members, according to a new survey.

Patsy McGarry in Irish Times - Deeper analysis revealed only 13 per cent of the worshippers were young people aged between 12 and 30.

It was the first such survey on weekly attendance undertaken by the Church of Ireland. Addressing the findings in his presidential address to the Church's General Synod in Armagh on Thursday, Primate Archbishop Richard Clarke commented: "Although there were few shocks in what we learnt, it was by any standards a necessary reality check."

The figures presented "the scale of the missional challenge ahead of us as a Church, but nevertheless it is one that if we cannot embrace with confidence and with hope in Jesus Christ, we may as well close the doors of our churches now. We must relate to reality, and we must also

relate to the future ahead of us, a future towards which God is always calling us.”

It was why at last year’s General Synod he had urged the Church “to look towards the future, to adopt the mind-set of a Long-Term Church, rather than to live metaphorically from hand to mouth with no vision beyond the immediate exigencies of the present moment.”

He added: “In four years’ time, 2019, the Church of Ireland will be marking, and, I hope, celebrating 150 years since its disestablishment in the summer of 1869. One of my deepest hopes is that we may also undertake two major projects that will have reached fruition by then, or at least be in the final stages of completion by that point.”

More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/only-15-of-church-of-ireland-members-attend-services-1.2204073>

Marathon challenge for cathedral choir tour fundraisers

To raise money for the Choir Tour in France in August, the Revd Campbell Dixon and four choir



girls from St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, ran as a relay team in the Belfast Marathon!

The sun shone on the May Day event, making conditions hot for running, but the team of Cuisle Murphy, Jennie Carlin, Campbell Dixon, Rachel Brady and Niamh Cullen got round in an impressive five hours and four minutes – well done to them all!

The Cathedral choristers will travel to France for five days this summer, singing in churches and concerts in the east of France and in Paris. Fundraising is ongoing. Please contact Belfast Cathedral on 028 9032 8332 if you wish to pledge sponsorship or a donation.

Geoffrey McConnell is Armagh's May organ recitalist

The May organ recital in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh will be given by Mr Geoffrey McConnell on Sunday 17 May 2015 at 4.15pm.

A music graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, Geoffrey has given various organ recitals, most recently in June last year in the Ulster Hall. He studied for his MA with Professor Desmond Hunter on the subject of Stanford's Organ Sonatas.

Geoffrey is a music tutor and an active member of the Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters. He was previously organist of St. John's Parish Church, Newcastle before moving to St Martin's Church in Belfast and is currently organist of Ballymacarrett Parish Church.

The recital programme for the Armagh recital is based on the English organ repertoire from the early music of Orlando Gibbons through to the present day, including the work of Peter Hurford. Geoffrey explained his choice of programme, "The pieces show the development of compositional style with the colours of the

cathedral organ used to create mood and texture.”

The Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, Dean of Armagh, said, “We are delighted to welcome a pupil of Desmond Hunter, who gave a recital in March. Like all our recitalists, Geoffrey McConnell has prepared a programme that reflects his particular interests in the organ repertoire. We look forward to his interpretation of it on the wide range of the Cathedral organ.”

As with all the recitals in this series, admission is free, with a retiring collection towards the further endowment of the Cathedral Choir through the Archbishop’s Choir Fund. The final recital will be held on Sunday 14 June 2015, after which there will be a summer break and a new recital series will start in September.

Memorial service for children killed in 1916

At a Service of Remembrance and Reclamation for 40 children who were killed during the Easter Rising, President Michael D Higgins suggested that Ireland can remember them by ensuring that children of this decade fulfill their potential in peace and security, health and happiness.



“The children we celebrate today were denied their potential, their possibilities.”

“Today, as we restore to those forgotten children their rightful place in the story and the celebration of that founding moment of our State that was the Easter Rising, we can, perhaps, best honour their memory through the rebuilding and renewal of our society and the creation of an ethical foundation on which our Republic can grow and thrive,” he said.

He added that the day was an opportunity to reflect on citizenship, “the public world and the public space, the importance of each individual member of our community, and of our own duty

and responsibility to seek to play a role in the creation of a fair and equitable society.”

This was the second such service to remember the children.

It was held on Tuesday (5 May) in St Patrick’s Church in Ringsend and attended by the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough Dr Michael Jackson and local priest Fr Ivan Tonge.

Descendants of some of the dead were also present.

They included Canon Barbara Fryday, who is married to the nephew of Neville Fryday, a 16-year-old Tipperary man who lied about his age to enlist in the Canadian army and was shot while in Dublin on leave and wearing his uniform.

Fr Michael Scott is the nephew of eight-year-old Walter Scott, who was shot dead along with school pal by bullet from gunship Helga.

Dublin’s Lord Mayor Christy Burke and Cabinet ministers were also present and RTÉ’s Cór na nÓg and children from the local St Patrick’s National Schools. These young children read out the names of the dead during the service.

The service will be broadcast on Sunday, May 10 on RTÉ One at 11am and on RTÉ Radio 1 Extra/LW252 at 11.45am.

Minister for Arts to unveil Blue Plaque for Ulsterwoman who espoused temperance

The Irish Minister for Arts is to unveil a special plaque in Co Cavan in memory of a Presbyterian Ulsterwoman who was a leading campaigner in the temperance movement.

News Letter - Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Heather Humphreys TD will formally unveil the Ulster History Circle Blue Plaque to Anne Jane Carlile (1775-1864) at 7pm on Friday at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bailieborough.

Chris Spurr, chairman of the Ulster History Circle, said: “Anne Jane Carlile was an Ulsterwoman whose inspiration and faith gave a name and purpose to one of Victorian Britain’s leading temperance movements.

“A co-founder of the Band of Hope, her early years in counties Monaghan and Cavan lent substance to her charitable work in later life.



“The Ulster History Circle is delighted to honour Anne Jane Carlile’s achievements with this blue plaque, which is our first ever in Co Cavan, and the circle would particularly like to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for their financial support towards the plaque.”

Anne was born at Ruskey, Co Monaghan, youngest child of a linen merchant of Huguenot descent. She married the Presbyterian minister of Bailieborough and Corraneary, Co Cavan, Rev Francis Carlile, and they had seven children, but her husband and three of her children died young.

Anne quickly involved herself in public service, first of all prison visiting after which she related how nearly every inmate in Dublin had been incarcerated because of drunkenness.

She became teetotal soon after and she went on to campaign in Monaghan, Cavan, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, London and Belfast, travelling widely throughout Ulster and founding a number of societies.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/health/blue-plaque-for-ulsterwoman-who-espoused-temperance-1-6728637>

John McAreavey and Martina Purdy will speak at Derry Novena

A BBC journalist who quit her job to become a nun will be the guest speaker at the Little Way Novena in St Eugene's Cathedral on Monday night.

Derry Journal - Martina Purdy who will speak at 7.30 p.m. caused shock across Northern Ireland when she entered the convent of the Adoration Sisters last year.

On Tuesday night the speaker will be John McAreavey who tragically lost his new bride

Michaela (nee Harte) when she was murdered in Mauritius while on honeymoon in 2011.

John is a young man who has experienced tragedy in his life and whose Catholic faith has been central to him.

The Little Way Novena begins tomorrow, May 9 and runs until May 17.

The theme is “Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant ones, count as nothing”.

Two of the most integral elements of the Novena are the morning Eucharist at 6.30 am and 10.00 am and the Evening Devotions with a Guest Speaker at 7.30 pm, Monday to Friday.

Confessions will be available Monday to Friday after the 6.30 am Mass and after the 7.30 pm Evening Service.

The Novena will begin on Saturday (9th May) at 7.30 pm Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick which will be celebrated by Bishop Edward Daly.

On Sunday evening (10th May) at 6.00 pm during a time of prayer and devotions Bishop Donal McKeown will speak.

Elma Walsh will speak on Wednesday (13th May).

Elma is the mother of Donal Walsh, the young man from Kerry who died from cancer in May 2013.

Donal inspired so many people by his commitment to his faith and the manner in which he faced his death.

The Guest Speaker on Thursday (14th May) will be David Alton. David is from Liverpool, a former MP and a crossbench member of the House of Lords since 1997.

He is noted for his human rights work, his support of pro-life issues and his commitment to his Catholic faith.

Archdeacon Robert Miller will speak on Friday (15th May). Archdeacon Miller is the rector of Christ Church, Infirmary Road.

Over the years St Eugene's and Christ Church have worked closely together in proclaiming the Christian message.

All are welcome to the events at the Cathedral.
<http://www.derryjournal.com/news/john-mcareavey-and-martina-purdy-will-speak-at-derry-novena-1-6731715>

Cardinal Nichols to celebrate Mass for gay Catholics



Cardinal Nichols will be the first cardinal to celebrate Mass for same-sex attracted Catholics

Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate Mass for gay Catholics on Sunday in central London.

Catholic Herald - Same-sex attracted Catholics, along with their families, will attend the Mass at Farm Street Jesuit Church, in Mayfair on May 10 at 18:15.

The Mass will mark the first time a cardinal has celebrated Mass specifically for same-sex gay Catholics.

Following an earlier decision by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the LGBT Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council moved its gatherings from the Church of the Assumption in London's Soho to the Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, Mayfair in March 2013.

Media Digest

Eamonn McCann: Did you hear the one about Sinn Féin's sectarian leaflet?

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/eamonn-mccann-did-you-hear-the-one-about-sinn-f%C3%A9in-s-sectarian-leaflet-1.2202425>

If we value life, focus on the fate of a human, not a foetus

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/if-we-value-life-focus-on-the-fate-of-a-human-not-a-foetus-1-6729809>

Marriage equality is a human right, says Law Society

[http://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/courts/district-court/marriage-equality-is-a-human-right-says-law-society-1.2202668?
utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/courts/district-court/marriage-equality-is-a-human-right-says-law-society-1.2202668?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

Referendum No vote would deny citizens equal rights, Kenny says

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/referendum-no-vote-would-deny-citizens-equal-rights-kenny-says-1.2203591?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

PaddyAnglican: Marriage Equality 2015 - Waking up to the Importance of the issue

<http://paddyanglican.blogspot.ie/2015/05/marriage-equality-2015-waking-up-to.html>

Fintan O'Toole: Religious conservatives want to have cake and eat it

[http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/fintan-o-toole-religious-conservatives-want-to-have-cake-and-eat-it-1.2199612?
mode=sample&auth-failed=1&pw-origi=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishtimes.com%2Fopinion%2Ffintan-o-toole-religious-conservatives-want-to-have-cake-and-eat-it-1.2199612](http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/fintan-o-toole-religious-conservatives-want-to-have-cake-and-eat-it-1.2199612?mode=sample&auth-failed=1&pw-origi=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishtimes.com%2Fopinion%2Ffintan-o-toole-religious-conservatives-want-to-have-cake-and-eat-it-1.2199612)

'My godparents were there when I lost my mum and dad'

<http://www.independent.ie/life/family/family-features/my-godparents-were-there-when-i-lost-my-mum-and-dad-31194136.html>

Is being a godparent still important in Ireland today?

<http://www.independent.ie/life/family/family-features/is-being-a-godparent-still-important-in-ireland-today-31194134.html>

Archbishop of Canterbury

Archbishop's speech at Board of Deputies dinner

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5547/archbishops-speech-at-board-of-deputies-dinner>

Tel

Article on the Archbishop of Canterbury's address to the annual dinner of the Board of Deputies of British Jews in London, which says he warned about fuelling extremism by pretending that all faiths are basically the same. It states Justin Welby said faith leaders seemed desperate to hide behind "bland" and "anaemic" statements about what they have in common rather than facing up to the "profound differences" between them.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11586757/Welby-lets-stop-pretending-all-religions-agree.html>

CHURCH TIMES

C of E honours its pledge to appoint a 'headship' Evangelical as bishop

<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2015/8-may/news/uk/c-of-e-honours-its-pledge-to-appoint-a-headship-evangelical-as-bishop>

BBC

Report that a retired vicar from Tottenham has won a case to highlight the inaccuracy of unpaid council tax

enforcement costs. The Revd Paul Nicolson deliberately refused to pay his tax to Haringey Council as he suspected the costs were inaccurate. The 82-year-old said the ruling was a victory for the poor - he had brought the case because a £125 costs bill was a "very big penalty".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-32612179>

BBC/Mail

Reports that the centenary of the sinking of the Lusitania will be commemorated today at a service in Liverpool Parish Church. About 1,200 people died and 771 survived when the British liner was torpedoed and sunk on 7 May 1915 when it was sailing from New York to its home port of Liverpool. Revd Dr Crispin Pailing, Rector of Liverpool, is quoted. A memorial plaque will be dedicated during the service.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-32616231>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3071166/Modern-liners-Lusitania-tribute.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Tel

Article on how politicians are encouraging British Muslims to vote in the General Election. It states historically, the turnout among Muslims eligible to vote has been significantly lower than the wider population. According to a MORI study 53 per cent Muslims did not vote in the last election. The study also found that 15 per cent of Church of England Christians did not vote.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/general-election-2015/politics-blog/11585698/Why-Britains-Muslims-should-engage-with-this-election.html>

Guard

Report that the chairman of Standard Chartered has said the bank will review its involvement in an Australian coal mine that critics say threatens the Great Barrier Reef. The London-listed bank said it would go "no further" with the Carmichael mine until it had looked at the project's environmental credentials. The Church of England's announcement that it was moving its money out of the most-polluting fossil fuels is also mentioned.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/may/06/standard-chartered-vows-review-role-australian-coal-mine-project>

BBC

Report that a disciplinary panel heard how a teacher standing as a British National Party (BNP) candidate told pupils "Muslims worship the devil".

Revd Robert West, who is the party's parliamentary candidate for [Boston and Skegness](#), was found guilty of unacceptable professional conduct. Article notes Mr West has no connection to the Church of England. In 2006, he set up his own church, based in a house in Holbeach, to preach "traditional bible beliefs".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-32597460>

Mirror & Mail

Articles that the Pope has ordered priests to offer forgiveness to women who have had abortions and the doctors who performed them. It states the gesture is part of a special Holy Year of Mercy in the Catholic Church. It says priests will have the authority to forgive the most serious of sins, including abortion, which would normally result in automatic excommunication.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/pope-francis-orders-catholic-priests-5648276>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3070327/The-Pope-orders-Catholic-priests-bestow-pardon-women-abortion-doctors-performed-them.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

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