



Discovery Gospel Choir performing at Climate Conversations.

Moral Need to Tackle Climate Change Examined

The latest in a series of conversations on climate change took place in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on April 20. ‘Prophetic Voices – the Call to Action’ was hosted by Christian Aid and Trocaire in the cathedral’s Music Room. The session looked at where people could find

spiritual and ethical motivation to face the challenge of climate change and examined how spirituality and faith could help build a deeper connection and appreciation of nature.

It was the fourth of five 'Climate Conversations' that have been taking place in the city organised by Climate Gathering. The conversations aim to bring Ireland together to create a new understanding of climate change. The session gathered people of different faith and spiritual traditions as well as people charting their own paths to climate justice. Discovery Gospel Choir performed at the event.

The keynote speaker was Irish Columban missionary priest and environmental campaigner, Fr Sean McDonagh, who addressed the issue of what faith and spirituality could contribute to climate action. He referred to reports from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which stated that they were 90 percent sure that climate change was happening and 95 percent sure that it was because of humans burning fossil fuels.

Currently, he stated, the earth's temperature had increased by less than one degree. However, with this small rise there have been extraordinary weather events, flooding and food production

was being effected in Africa and Asia. A rise of four degrees, which could happen in the next 100 years unless action is taken, would see the transformation of the Amazon region from rain forest to savannah and even a two degree increase would see the extinction of between 30 and 40 percent of life on earth. This would be the biggest change since the extinction of the dinosaurs, Fr McDonagh said.

Addressing the implications for our ethical framework, he said that most religions addressed the individual's relationship with others and their relationship with God. He suggested a change to reflect the common good which would involve supporting the eco systems that we live in for the common good. Seeking to pursue the common good would encompass our concern for future generations and solidarity with all humans and all creation around us, recognising that changes in creation impact on all humans, he suggested.

In Ireland, Fr McDonagh said, there was a need to examine the amount of carbons we use as individuals as well as government policies that impact on climate change. At local level there needed to be a connection between discourse and action.

More at -

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2015/04/Moral-Need-to-Tackle-Climate-Change-Examined-at-Christ-Church-Climate-Conversation>

A video of the event is available to view on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gde5N4yMTeA&feature=youtu.be>

The final session takes place in the Abbey Theatre on May 10. See <http://www.climategathering.org/climate-conversations-2015/> for more details.

Belfast Cathedral copies of the WW1 “Books of the Dead” in City Hall display

St Anne’s Cathedral’s copies of “The Books of the Dead” containing the names of all Irish people in the services known to have died in World War One is to feature in an exhibition opening in Belfast City Hall this week.

Belfast Visual Artist Lise McGreevy has compiled a unique collection of WW1 art and artefacts never seen before in one location and will display these as part of the centenary celebrations.

“I am thrilled that the Royal Ulster Rifles’ and Somme Museums and St Anne’s Cathedral have kindly agreed to exhibit some of their fantastic WW1 artefacts together as part of my on-going ‘Lest We Forget’ project which commemorates all those from Northern Ireland who lost their lives during the Great War,” said Lise.

“It is brilliant to know that the three great historical institutes will bring items from their iconic WW1 archives together in one venue for the first time ever. These precious items will be an excellent contextualisation for this poignant event, which depicts and commemorates all those who played such a vital role and especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.”

According to Lise, the event will give all those who visit the opportunity to enjoy not only WW1 art and memorabilia, but also let them see the reality and human story behind WW1 for the local men and women who served in many eclectic and dangerous ways during its four year duration.

Gavin Glass, Curator at Royal Ulster Rifles Museum, said that with such a wide and varied array of historical and cultural pieces from WW1 within their collection, it was a task to pick the chosen items.

“With the human story at the core of this event, we have chosen some very poignant memorabilia to display at City Hall, such as a Teddy bear in full uniform made by a wounded Irish soldier for the nurse who looked after him, and a German fife taken from a prisoner of war in 1916.”

Another harrowing RUR artefact on display will be a metal cup with a bullet embedded at its centre, which saved the life of a soldier under enemy fire (pictured above right).

Not only the men who risked their lives are represented in the exhibition. The Somme Museum, Newtownards, will contribute interesting pieces reflecting the true grit of local women during the war years.

For Lise the exhibition marks the end of the first stage of her project. She will now research and photograph the nostalgic ‘Ireland’s Memorial Records 1914–18’ which give many details of all those from Northern Ireland and Ireland who died during WW1.

“St Anne’s Cathedral has given me unlimited access to all eight of these historic ledgers which they have kept safe in their vaults for decades, a truly amazing experience for any photographer,” Lise said. “A selection of the churchnewsireland@gmail.com

books shall be on display during the exhibition and are definitely worth a look!”

The exhibition will be launched at City Hall on Tuesday April 21 and hosted in the East Wing Gallery Space until April 30. Entry is free.

The “Books of the Dead” are copies of those held at the Irish National War Memorial at Islandbridge.

Armenians in Ireland Mark 100th Anniversary of Genocide

This coming weekend, April 24 to 26, the Armenian Church in Ireland will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian community here gathers in Taney Parish (Dundrum) and a Remembrance Service will take place there on Sunday afternoon.

The weekend of commemoration will begin on Friday April 24 with a photographic exhibition in Christ Church, Dun Laoghaire, from 12.30 pm until 6.30 pm. At 7.30 pm there will be a silent vigil at Dun Laoghaire Pier which will include the release of 100 Chinese lanterns representing 100 years of the unrecognised genocide.

Each year the Armenian Church and nation has a special day of prayer to remember the 1.5 million Armenians who were killed by the Ottoman Turks between 1915 and 1923. It is a National Remembrance day for all Armenians worldwide. The 100th anniversary Remembrance Service will take place in Taney Parish on Sunday April 26 at 3.00 pm. It will be attended by Church leaders. In November a Genocide Memorial will be erected in Christ Church Cathedral.

The history of the Armenian Church is almost as old as Christianity itself as according to tradition, two apostles of Jesus, St Thaddeus and St Bartholomew brought the Gospel to Armenia during the second half of the first century.

The Mother See of the Armenian Orthodox Church is based at Etchmiadzin in Armenia. In Ireland there is only one parish. It is based in Dublin and was set up in March 2011. The Dublin Parish is tied to the Armenian Apostolic Church in UK under the supervision of the Primate of the Armenian Church based in London. The Dublin Parish meets and holds parish community activities in Taney Parish (Church of Ireland) in Dundrum.

The majority of those Armenians living in Ireland carry a family history of the Armenian Genocide.

Further information is available at
www.armenians.ie.

Churches Must Move the Furniture to Avoid Being Part of Heritage Theme Park

Have we become the caretakers of great monuments and should greater emphasis be put on redesigning churches to suit the liturgy? This was the question addressed at a colloquium in Dublin on Saturday.

A large gathering of people filled Trinity College Dublin's Long Room Hub for *Re-Pitching the Tent: Re-Ordering the Church Building for Worship and Mission* which was organised by Search Journal and the Church of Ireland Chaplaincy at TCD. The keynote speaker was Richard Giles, a facilitator of creative worship and consultant in liturgical design who has worked all over the world. He spoke on the theme: 'Moving the Furniture: Trivial Pursuit or Gospel Imperative?'

Other speakers included Dean of Leighlin, the Very Revd Tom Gordon, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, the Right Revd Michael Burrows and conservation architect, Margaret Quinlan.



Dean Tom Gordon, Margaret Quinlan, Bishop Michael Burrows and Richard Giles at the Search Colloquium.

They addressed the work which has been carried out on St Laserian's Cathedral in Leighlan to preserve the essence of the building while adapting it to meet current and future need.

They also touched on the obstacles which must be overcome when attempting to move the furniture.

Richard Giles contended that at a time when the Church was undergoing liturgical renewal, it had stopped remodelling its worship spaces to suit its liturgy as it had done throughout its history. He said that the image of the tent was a reminder that we are a people on a journey and that the church building was a didactic tool which should work with us to proclaim the faith.

“The Christian gift to the world has been wonderful architecture. But we need to examine our roots and be shaped by the Scriptural and Baptismal life,” Canon Giles said. “The church has become part of a heritage theme park in people’s minds. What we are living with is buildings that are not fit for purpose... We inherit spaces that are full and restrictive. The challenge is to remodel them so that they are based around the Word and the Sacraments.”

Above all, he suggested that the notion of the audience needed to be addressed so that there was greater participation and engagement. The seating plan is the first step, he said, as the congregation had to be shifted from being a passive audience to a participating community. “Worship is no longer a spectator sport, in which we watch others ‘do worship’ for us, but an activity which gathers us all up into a common

realisation that every one of us is engaged totally in the work of the people of God,” he said.

Canon Giles said gathering face to face was important and proposed a number of ways in which the furniture could be moved to enable the congregation to do this. Firstly the font could be moved to a central location putting the living water of baptism into the heart of worship.

Secondly the pulpit and lectern could be combined into one ambo placed in the midst of the people from which the Scriptures are read, proclaimed and interpreted. Finally, he suggested “rescuing” the altar table and relocating it in the midst of the people where they can break bread together.

“Once you have cleared the space you can do what you like and you can keep changing to show that nothing is set in stone... We are at heart a Eucharistic community and it is for this that all other things exist,” he concluded.

‘Meet Jesus’ Course at Lisburn Cathedral

Lisburn Cathedral is running a course called *Meet Jesus* on five consecutive Sundays from May 10 to June 7.

Each night the course examines a different topic that relates to the claims of the Christian faith. It will be relaxed, fun, offering participants the chance to express opinions and hopefully learn some new things.

The evening starts with a meal, followed by a short provocative talk, and finishes with discussion in groups. There will be no pressure on people to talk or to pray aloud, but there will be space for people to share thoughts and ask questions.

The Rev Simon Genoe, Vicar of Lisburn Cathedral, said: “So whether you’re a saint or a sceptic, a church-goer or a church-avoider, young or old, we welcome you to our launch night on the 10th of May to Meet Jesus.” Details at -

<http://www.lisburncathedral.org/news/fri-2015-04-17-0900/the-meet-jesus-course>

Pope Francis to visit Turin Shroud

The Turin Shroud went on display this week for the first time in five years. The 14ft cloth, which is protected by a climate-controlled case, will be on display at Turin Cathedral until June 24.

Pope Francis, whose family hails from Piedmont, the Italian region where Turin is situated, will visit the shroud on June 21 during a private viewing alongside a number of his relatives.

Archbishop Cesare Nosiglia of Turin said on Saturday: “Many pilgrims who had already seen the shroud in past showings come back, even though some saw it just five years ago.

“That’s not a long time. And yet many of the bookings we have are people who have already seen the shroud. That means there is a fundamental need in people’s hearts to renew this incredible experience that they had the first time they saw it.”

Viewing the cloth, traditionally regarded as being the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, is free but booking is mandatory. More than one million people have booked to see it so far, according to the city’s mayor.

In 1988 radiocarbon dating suggested that the shroud dated from between 1260 and 1390. However, this has been disputed by some scientists.

Pope Francis will spend two days in Turin from **June 21 to 22**, and, as well as venerate the

shroud, he will meet juvenile prisoners, immigrants and the sick.

The papal visit will also commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of St John Bosco, a 19th-century priest from the Turin region who was a pioneer in vocational education, worked with poor and abandoned children and founded the Salesians, a religious order specialising in youth work.

Pope condemns killings of Ethiopian Christians in Libya

Pope Francis condemned the "continuing martyrdom" of Christians on Monday after 30 Ethiopians were shown being shot and beheaded in Libya on a video purportedly made by Islamic State militants.

"With great distress and sadness I learn of the further shocking violence perpetrated against innocent Christians in Libya," Francis said in a message to Patriarch Abuna Matthias of the Ethiopian Tewahedo Orthodox Church.

The video, in which militants call Christians "crusaders" who are out to kill Muslims, showed

about 15 men being beheaded on a beach and another group of the same size being shot in the head in a patch of scrubland.[IDn:nL5N0XH2KO]

"I reach out to you in heartfelt spiritual solidarity to assure you of my closeness in prayer at the continuing martyrdom being so cruelly inflicted on Christians in Africa, the Middle East and some parts of Asia," the pope said in his message released by the Vatican.

"The blood of our Christian brothers and sisters is a testimony which cries out to be heard by everyone who can still distinguish between good and evil. All the more this cry must be heard by those who have the destiny of peoples in their hands," he said.

Last February, Islamic State militants in Libya beheaded 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians.

Earlier this month in Kenya, al Shabaab gunmen massacred nearly 150 people at a university, singling out Christians for point-blank executions.

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Belfast Telegraph

C of I Bishop supports 'trendy' minister who has divided his congregation

One parishioner said of Mr Kilpatrick's style: "If you walked into one of his services, you would never know that it's a **Church of Ireland church**. It's not ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/bishop-supports-trendy-minister-who-has-divided-his-congregation-31158134.html>

Rector row must be resolved

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/editors-viewpoint/rector-row-must-be-resolved-31157864.html>

Peter Lynas: He's just overseen the building of a £3m church in Coleraine and has been a vocal supporter of Ashers bakery

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/features/peter-lynas-hes-just-overseen-the-building-of-a-3m-church-in-coleraine-and-has-been-a-vocal-supporter-of-ashers-bakery-31154678.html>

Church warden and accomplice jailed after blackmail plot

A **Church of Ireland** warden was one of two Co Antrim men sentenced to five years each after admitting blackmailing a businessman for £6,000.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/church-warden-and-accomplice-caged-after-6000-blackmail-plot-against-local-businessman-31158147.html>

Belfast Newsletter

DUP not to take stance on Ford's abortion bill

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/dup-not-to-take-stance-on-ford-s-abortion-bill-1-6701941>

Fianna Fail is reaping a problem it helped to sow

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/fianna-fail-is-reaping-a-problem-it-helped-to-sow-1-6698210>

Irish Times

Presbyterian Church urges No in marriage equality referendum

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/presbyterian-church-urges-no-in-marriage-equality-referendum-1.2184132>

Christians, adherents of most major religions, support equality for LGBT people

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/christians-adherents-of-most-major-religions-support-equality-for-lgbt-people-1.2182570#.VTZAUD8UjNI.facebook>

Irish Independent

Garda union urges members to vote 'Yes' in referendum

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/garda-union-urges-members-to-vote-yes-in-referendum-31158272.html>

'Gays should abstain from sex - like all unmarried couples'

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/gays-should-abstain-from-sex-like-all-unmarried-couples-31153701.html>

Government fears silent No will sink referendum

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/referendum/government-fears-silent-no-will-sink-referendum-31153702.html>

Mail

Report that the Trussell Trust said yesterday that the number of people claiming free meal packages from its foodbanks passed a million last year. The figures were described by Labour and the TUC as 'shocking' evidence that millions need emergency food because of low pay and stopped benefits. It refers to research carried out by the Trust, Oxfam, the Church of England and other charities last year.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3049679/Storm-food-backs-claim-feeding-1-million-people-Labour-seize-](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3049679/Storm-food-backs-claim-feeding-1-million-people-Labour-seize-churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

figures-shocking-Tories-attack-unverified-numbers.html#ixzz3Y0j1HE1Z

Church Times

Report that Bishop of Willesden, Pete Broadbent has underlined the importance of the Archbishops' Reform and Renewal programmes at a gathering of Evangelicals last week - "the audience heard an unapologetic defence of the drive to tackle numerical decline, and a frank dismissal of some of the programme's most vocal critics".

<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2015/17-april/news/uk/church-growth-bishop-broadbent-rounds-on-the-critics-of-reform-and-renewal>

Guard/BBC

Reports that three memorials linked to the Gallipoli landings in WW1 have been listed or had their listing upgraded to mark the centenary of the campaign. They mention a memorial cross at St George's church in Deal, Kent, to Cambridge graduate, Arthur Tisdall awarded the VC and to which the names of the other men from the parish were added as the war continued.

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/2015/apr/21/gallipoli-war-memorials-listed-upgraded-centenary-first-world-war>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-32397417>

Times/Guard

Further reports that Wonga has slumped to a £37.3 million annual loss after it reined in consumer loans amid a regulatory clampdown on payday lending. They state the lender fell into the red and warned it will struggle to return to profit this year. They mention criticism of the company's tactics from the Archbishop of Canterbury and a crackdown by the FCA.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/industries/banking/article4418098.ece>

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/apr/21/wonga-timeline-from-good-start-to-bad-loans>

Tel

Article on Chinese company, [Amity Foundation](#) - the world's largest printer of Bibles - which had printed 13.22 million copies in more than 100 languages in 2014. The books had been distributed across China, and in more than 70 countries and regions. It states a former leader of China's Christians and president of the Amity Foundation, said Bibles should be provided for to a greater number of people, and at a price the less well-off could afford.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/china-watch/culture/11541339/chinas-bible-industry.html>

Mail

Story of two Christian migrants from Africa who made the journey across the Mediterranean to escape beheading from Islamic State fanatics in Libya. It states a group of Eritrean refugees told how they were forced to deny their faith or face death at the hands of Islamist gunmen who patrol the towns and beaches of the North African state searching for 'infidels'.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3048822/They-cut-head-shoot-Christian-migrants-reveal-fled-Libya-perilous-journey-Med-escape-ISIS.html#ixzz3Y0mc2f3H>

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