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## **Cork event to celebrate Irish Mission in Latin America**



**L to R: Fr. Joe McCarthy (Bantry), Fr. Peter Hughes (Foxford), President Higgins, Fr. Gerry O'Meara (Limerick), and Fr. John Salatino.**

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A unique celebration will take place in Cork on Wednesday, 29 August, when a number of Irish diocesan priests who have ministered in Latin America with the Missionary Society of St James the Apostle will gather in the Commons Inn for a special Mass and dinner with fellow missionaries, friends and supporters as well as Bishop Pedro Bustamente from Sicuani in Peru, and Bishop Robert Hennessy from Boston.

The Missionary Society of St. James was founded in 1958 by Cardinal Richard Cushing of Boston. The Society offers diocesan priests from English-speaking countries the opportunity to work on mission in the poor, developing countries of Latin America. Priests join the Society for a period of five years during which they remain part of their home/sending dioceses. Initially, the Society provided priests in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia, but it is now focused on Peru where its men work in dioceses in the High Andes, on the southern coast, and in various “barrio” or township areas around the capitol, Lima.

Retired Fr. Joe McCarthy from Bantry explains the celebration. “This year” he said “the Society is celebrating 60 years of service to the church in Latin America. We began the celebrations in January with an event in Lima in Peru. There, we recognised the people from the parishes in which the St. James’ priests ministered. The celebrations will continue in Cork on August 29, where we will be honouring the people who participated in our missionary work. Many people - lay women and men, religious communities - as well as priests have left Ireland to work in Latin America as a result of contact with the St. James Society. Many of them will be present at the event,

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**L to R: Fr. Des Tynan (Gort), Fr. Francisco (Ghana), Fr. Joe McCarthy (Bantry), and Fr. Ray O'Sullivan (Kanturk)**



including sisters from the Bon Secours, the Mercy and Presentation congregations.”

Limerick-born, Fr. David Costello is the current Coordinator/ Superior of the Society. Fr. Costello, from Corbally, has been working in Peru since 2003. About the Cork event, he says: “We will be honouring: Fr. Tim O’Sullivan, the last surviving Cork priest who worked with both the St. James Society and also with the Cork diocesan mission in Trujillo; Fr. Gerry O’Meara from Limerick representing the many Irish priests who served with the Society, and who has worked in Peru for 55 years; and Fr. Roger Clark from Shrewsbury representing the vast contribution of priests from the U.K.

Of the hundreds of priests who worked with the St. James Society, many were Irish. These men were already serving in the US, England, Scotland, Wales, New Zealand and Australia. During his state visit to Peru in January last year, President Michael D. Higgins meet with members of the Society and other Irish missionaries working in Peru.

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The pioneering priests from Irish dioceses were: Fr. Pat Lohan (Galway), Canon Pat Ahern (Waterford), Fr. John Murphy and Donal McCarthy (Cloyne). From Cork & Ross came Frs. Michael Crowley, Michael Murphy - later Bishop of Cork & Ross - Denis O'Donoghue and Tim O'Sullivan. They were joined by Archdeacon Tom Duggan, who was in his mid-70s but who died while still in language school. Cardinal Cushing went to Lima for his funeral accompanied by Bishop Lucey who was shocked at what he saw there and was inspired to undertake the Cork Mission to Peru based around Trujillo.

The Society of St. James legacy continues to live on after 60 years. It continues to work to improve the quality of life for the people in Latin America. Irish men, Fr. Raymond O'Sullivan from Mountmellick and Fr. Des Tynan from Gort - two of the nine who were ordained in Carlow College for the Society in 1967 – and are fluent Quechua speakers, remain in Lima. More than half of the 180 people who will be attending the celebrations in Cork next week have ministered in Latin America. Many of the alumni from England, Ireland and the USA will be there. Bishop Robert Hennessy from the Archdiocese of Boston, who also ministered in Bolivia with the Society, will represent Cardinal O'Malley. Bishop Pedro Bustamante from Sicuani, Peru, will represent the receiving bishops of Latin America.

## **Archbishops to launch Dublin's Pilgrim Walk for WMOF today**

Dublin's two Archbishops, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Archbishop Michael Jackson will officially launch the World



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Meeting of Families Pilgrim Walk this Saturday (August 18) at 12 noon at St Michan's Church of Ireland Church on Church Street, Dublin 7. They will then walk together to St Michan's Catholic Church on Halston Street and all are welcome to join them.

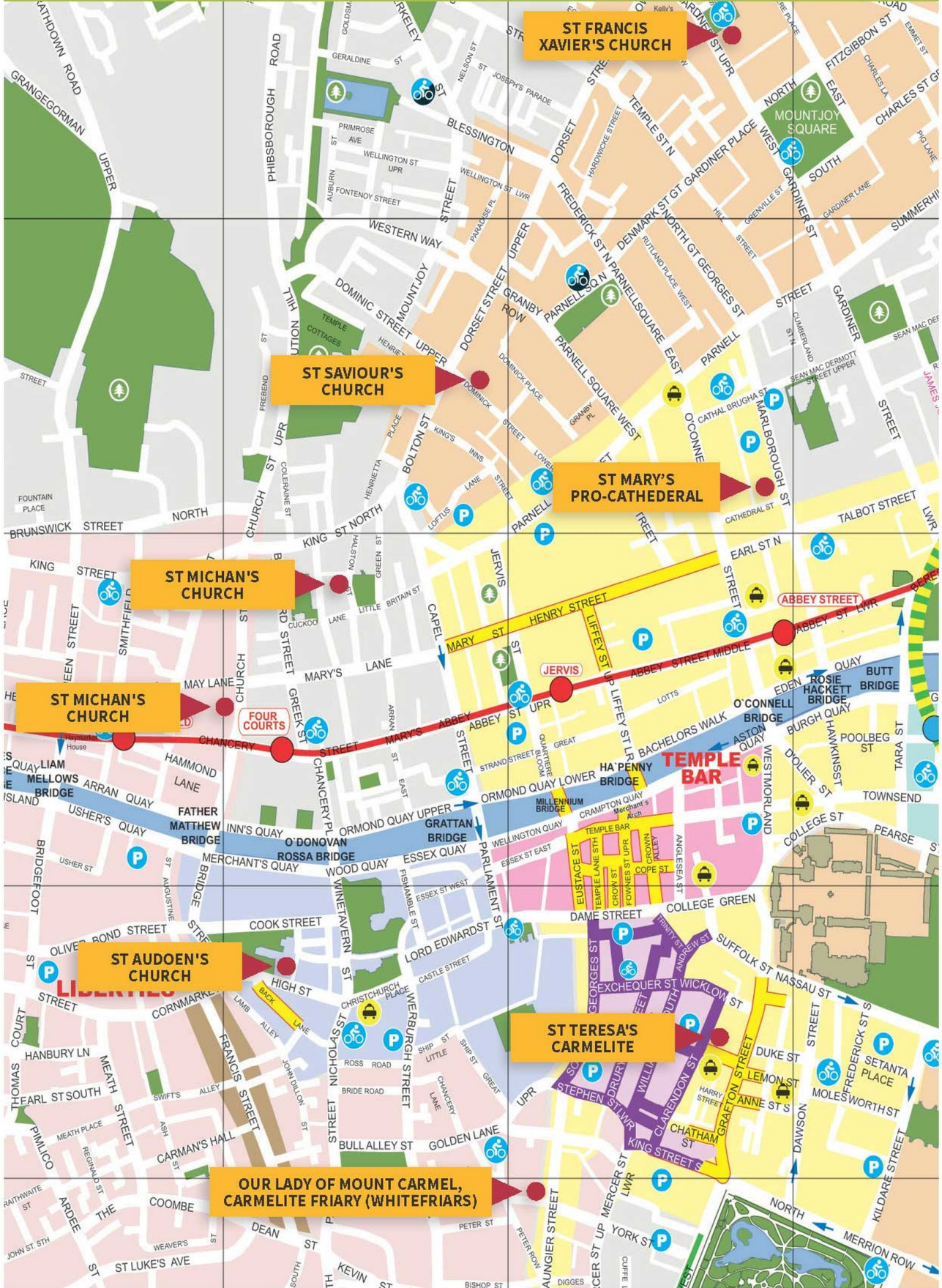
The WMOF Pilgrim Walk runs until Saturday August 25 and takes in seven Dublin city churches and the thousands of pilgrims who attend the World Meeting of Families will be invited to take part along with anyone who happens to be in Dublin. It can be undertaken in a single day or over the full week and participants will have a passport which can be stamped at each church in the ancient tradition of the Camino of St James. A certificate will be awarded when they arrive at the last of the seven churches.

Archbishop Jackson said he was delighted that a Church of Ireland church had been included in the walk and urged people to come along to the launch as well as support the World Meeting of Families.

“It is a great honour for me personally to be invited by Archbishop Martin to participate with him in The Pilgrim Walk. The idea of seven churches is as old as the Book of Revelation itself. The symbolism of fresh hope and new friendships on the way is vibrant and life-giving. The World Meeting of Families will soon be upon us. From the outset I have been encouraging members of the Church of Ireland to attend parts of this international Christian event in any way that they can. I trust that all know that they are invited to participate in Saturday's Pilgrim Walk at noon,” he said.

The Archbishop added: “The first stage is between the two churches dedicated to St Michan, one in the Church of

# WMOF2018 Pilgrim Walk Churches





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Ireland tradition and one in the Roman Catholic tradition. This inclusion is a mark of the ecumenical solidarity of which we in the Church of Ireland rejoice to be part in the spiritual and social life of today's Ireland. I wish the World Meeting of Families all that is best in the Lord".

The churches can be visited in any order and participants are encouraged to spend time in prayer for families in each finishing with the World Meeting of Families prayer.

The churches involved are:

- **St Teresa's Carmelite Church, Clarendon Street – the theme is “*the gift of parents to the family.*”**
  
- **St Francis Xavier's, Gardiner Street – the theme is *the role of teachers in enriching the children of our families.***
  
- **St Saviour's, Dominick Street – the theme is **God walks with families when times are tough****
  
- **St Michan's, Halston Street –*the gift of children to the family***
  
- **St Michan's, Church Street –*fostering the gift of forgiveness among families***
  
- **St Audoen's Church, High Street –*the gift of grandparents to the family***
  
- **Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Whitefriars), Aungier Street –*love at the heart of the family***

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All churches will remain open each day between 9.30am and 7pm. You can download the Pilgrim Walk map in PDF form at [www.dublindiocese.ie/7-church-pilgrim-walk-for-wmof2018](http://www.dublindiocese.ie/7-church-pilgrim-walk-for-wmof2018)

## **Moderator moved by Jordanian congregation's deep passion and total dependence upon God**

In his second blog from Jordan, where he is on his oversea tour, the Moderator, Dr Charles McMullen, describes leading devotions at a local church, and being moved by the congregation's deep passion and total dependence upon God.

Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen writes - I led the devotions in a local church this week, not knowing who was sitting in front of me or what would happen next. Afterwards, I watched the international team, including many local people, spreading themselves out to share the unconditional love of Christ.

We greeted a doctor now working in an improvised surgery on the church premises and a dentist, who had miraculously escaped an ISIS bullet to his head, about to give some treatment in a neighbouring room.

Then the local pastor took us to visit a young widow from a nominal Christian background in Iraq, who had fled with her daughter about six months ago. A small flat has been provided by the church, with some furniture and a bed. She had discovered new friends in Christ and her faith has





come totally alive! It was so moving as Barbara sat beside her to pray.

Her daughter is attending the local refugee school. The classrooms,

the improvised computer suite, the laughter of the children on the flat roof of the building, totally oblivious even to the most basic health and safety regulations! Our guide told us that they could no longer rent these premises and were soon having to move elsewhere. He took us to the new site, a place of even bigger dreams. I was so moved by his unstoppable vision, deep passion and total dependence on God.

And my devotion that morning? It was based on Psalm 46 and the importance of starting in the right place. It would be so easy to be consumed by the frightening earthquakes, political violence and deafening uproar constantly mentioned in these verses. Instead, we begin with God, who is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Despite appearances all around us to the contrary, we remain in him and he brings us to that place where he shatters the spear once and for all.

I met so many that morning, who were quietly, but confidently, making such a difference in his name. People

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who had the faith to believe that the outcome of the story was going to be different for those children from the war-torn homeland they had been forced to leave. They had the confidence to take that same Psalmist to heart: “Be still, and know that I am God”.

## Renowned Kilkenny choir set to sing for Pope's visit to Ireland



One of Kilkenny’s [most highly-regarded choirs](#) will be involved in two choral performances during the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland next week.

Arís, under the musical direction of Veronica McCarron, will perform at both the concert for the Pope and the Papal Mass.

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**Choral director  
Veronica McCarron**

The Pope will arrive in Dublin on Saturday, August 25, and Arís will perform with several other choirs at concert for him that day.

Then, on Sunday, the Papal Mass takes place, with the Pope its chief celebrant. Arís will perform on their own while the congregation is gathering, singing four or five pieces from their album, ahead of the Mass which is due to begin at 3pm.



“We’re very honoured to be singing for His Holiness,” Ms McCarron told the Kilkenny People.

“We’ll be singing for half a million people.”

The local choir are fresh from performing for the crowds at the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games at the National Aquatic Centre in Dublin at on Monday.



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Arís was borne out of Ms McCarron's [25 years at Kilkenny's Presentation Secondary School](#) (during which the choir won much acclaim and even appeared on Britain's Got Talent.

[After she left the school](#), she set up a group involving various students she had taught over her time there. The group now has between 40 and 50 members.

## **It's a foretaste of heaven - this year's Methodist ordinations recalled**



**The ordinands – the Revs Amanda Durrell, Katherine Kehoe, Louise Monroe, Nigel Murphy, Cheryl Patterson and Darrin Thompson with President, the Rev Billy Davison.**

In the September issue of the *Methodist Newsletter*, Dr Lindsay Easson describes this year's ordination service in Londonderry.

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“It was clearly a very moving service and one piece that stands out is when the British President, the Rev Loraine Mellor, is addressing the ordinands and comments on a conversation she had at another ordination service.

“She said, ‘I was asked to preach at an ordination service in Liverpool. As I was standing next to the President with the ordinands kneeling in front of us, he nudged me and said, “Look at their faces, Loraine. It doesn’t get much better than this. It’s a foretaste of heaven.” I have never forgotten those words, and the faces of the ordinands knelt in front of us.”

A full version of the report will be published in the September issue of the *Methodist Newsletter*.



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