



Co Armagh parish invests over £1m in new community centre



Photographed at the new £1.1million centre are Sheila Donaghy, business manager at Ulster Bank and Reverend Dorothy McVeigh of Annaghmore Parish.

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A County Armagh Church of Ireland has invested over £1m in the construction of a new modern parish centre, the News Letter, the Irish News and Lurgan Mail report.

The parish of Annaghmore, near Portadown has developed a new £1.1m multi-purpose centre with support from Ulster Bank, which will act as an activities hub for over 220 families in the local community.

The 16,500 sq ft centre features a 5,000 sq ft sports hall, meeting rooms, recreation facilities, a crèche and fully-equipped kitchen. In addition to serving the local community the new facility will also be available as event space for third-party hire and act as a community centre for local youth organisations and sports clubs.

Annaghmore minister, Reverend Dorothy McVeigh said the centre has been built with the future in mind.

“Our parish is a focal point for the local community in the Annaghmore area. In recent years we've seen a substantial increase in the provision of parish services and growth within its organisations. Our community is growing everyday and so too are parish services, so we needed a centre fit for purpose.

“The existing hall was unable to meet the demands of a modern and growing parish, and so the support from Ulster Bank in financing the new centre has enabled us to create a high-spec and functional space available to the community we serve and an asset for the wider geographic area as a high-capacity space available for hire.

“The site has also been developed to account for future growth with space available to the rear of the new centre to

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house additional facilities including an outdoor play area and sports grounds.”

Sheila Donaghy, business manager at Ulster Bank, added:

“The finance we have provided to the Church of Ireland for the parish centre development in Annaghmore is a unique investment, one where repayment comes directly from the community and on-going fundraising activity through the new centre itself.

“Annaghmore Parish Church has been a longstanding customer with Ulster Bank and we are delighted to have provided finance for the centre which will see the parish and its services grow over the coming years.”

Dublin woman to be new chief executive at Trócaire

Caoimhe de [Barra](#) has been appointed chief executive of Trócaire, the Irish Catholic Church’s overseas development agency.

A 48-year-old Dubliner, she takes up the role in October on the retirement of outgoing chief executive Éamonn Meehan. Ms de Barra worked for Trócaire previously between 1997 and 2015.

She said she was hugely honoured to be given the opportunity to lead Trócaire. “Having worked for the organisation for 18 years I am passionate about its mission and values,” she said.

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Caoimhe (48) takes up new role in October

Trócaire, she noted, “carries out vital work in over 20 countries around the world. This work is driven by an ethos of social justice. Trócaire is deeply embedded in Irish culture and is an organisation people in [Ireland](#) are rightly proud of.”

Her first role with Trócaire was as campaigns officer in 1997, later becoming policy and advocacy coordinator. She moved to [Mozambique](#) in 2007 as assistant regional manager for Southern [Africa](#).

In 2011 she became director of Trócaire’s international division, managing development and humanitarian operations in over 20 countries. From May 2015 until last month she was country director for [Concern Worldwide](#) in [Malawi](#) where she managed one of the largest ever humanitarian responses to a food crisis in that country. A fluent Irish speaker with a Masters in Development Studies from UCD, Ms de Barra lives in Dublin with her

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husband, Carl, and their two sons, Fionán and Ferdia. Patsy McGarry in the Irish Times

C of I emphasis on Heritage Week

Each year Heritage Week provides an opportunity for the Church of Ireland to show case many of its buildings and for visitors to have access to churches which are not regularly open outside the hours of worship, writes the C of I correspondent of the Irish Times.

In Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, there were writing workshops and 'Monks Tours' for children on Saturday past. On Monday at lunchtime there will be a belfry tour with an opportunity to ring the cathedral's bells. A lunchtime architectural of tour of the cathedral will be led by Dr Stuart Kinsella on Wednesday and on Friday, at 1.15pm, architectural historian Dr Michael O'Neill will lead a local walking tour which will include access to St Werburgh's church.

In St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, there will be lunchtime music recitals from Monday until Thursday and a series of Evensongs, at 5.30pm, from Monday to Friday with music from different phases of the past.

Linda Taylor will give a tour of hidden burial on Monday at 6.30pm and at the same time on Wednesday Albert Fenton will give an illustrated talk on the Knights of St Patrick.

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The Very Rev Dr Philip Knowles will give an organ recital in Timolin parish church, Moone, Co Kildare, on Monday at 7.30pm followed by refreshments.

St John the Evangelist church, Park Avenue, Sandymount, will host a Heritage Week exhibition, 'Turbulent Priests, Anglican Nuns and a Boy with a Bicycle: Stories from Sandymount', from next Thursday until Sunday 26 August.

The exhibition recalls significant moments in the history of St John's between 1900 and 1940, when the controversial Anglo-Catholic clergymen, the Revds Fletcher Le Fanu and Randal Colquhoun, were Vicars and protests took place against their alleged 'Romish' liturgical practices.

On display are rare photographs of the Community of St John the Evangelist, an order of Anglican nuns, who had a convent, orphanage and school of embroidery on St John's Road. Also featured is the story of local boy Alfie Knight, aged 9, who wrote to Lord Kitchener in 1914 and offered to go to the Front with his bicycle. Details from sandymount.dublin.anglican.org

New addition to CMSI Ignite Programme

Plans are coming together for CMSI's Annual **Ignite** Conference on the 14th-15th September in Dromantine Conference Centre, Newry.

As well as welcoming **Archbishop Masimango** and his wife **Naomi** (DC Congo) and the **Baker family**, we're also pleased to announce that we'll be joined by **Bishop**



John Nduwayo as he retires after over 30 years as Bishop of Gitega Diocese, Burundi.

In addition to times of worship and sharing together, there will be a range of seminars, each highlighting aspects of CMSI's wider work. These include updates from Global Partners and mission personnel, discussions on major mission themes and practical workshops to help develop a deeper parish focus on mission.

Bishop John will reflect on his many years of ministry in a special seminar focusing on the Church in Burundi.

Speaking about this new addition to the Ignite programme, CMSI's Mission Director Jenny Smyth said: "I recently returned from a visit to our partners in Burundi,

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where I spent time with Bishop John and his successor, Bishop Aimé Joseph - who was appointed Coadjutor Bishop last year.



Bishop John brings with him a wealth of experience of the Global Church and the challenges facing it. I'm delighted that he can share some of his story with us at Ignite."

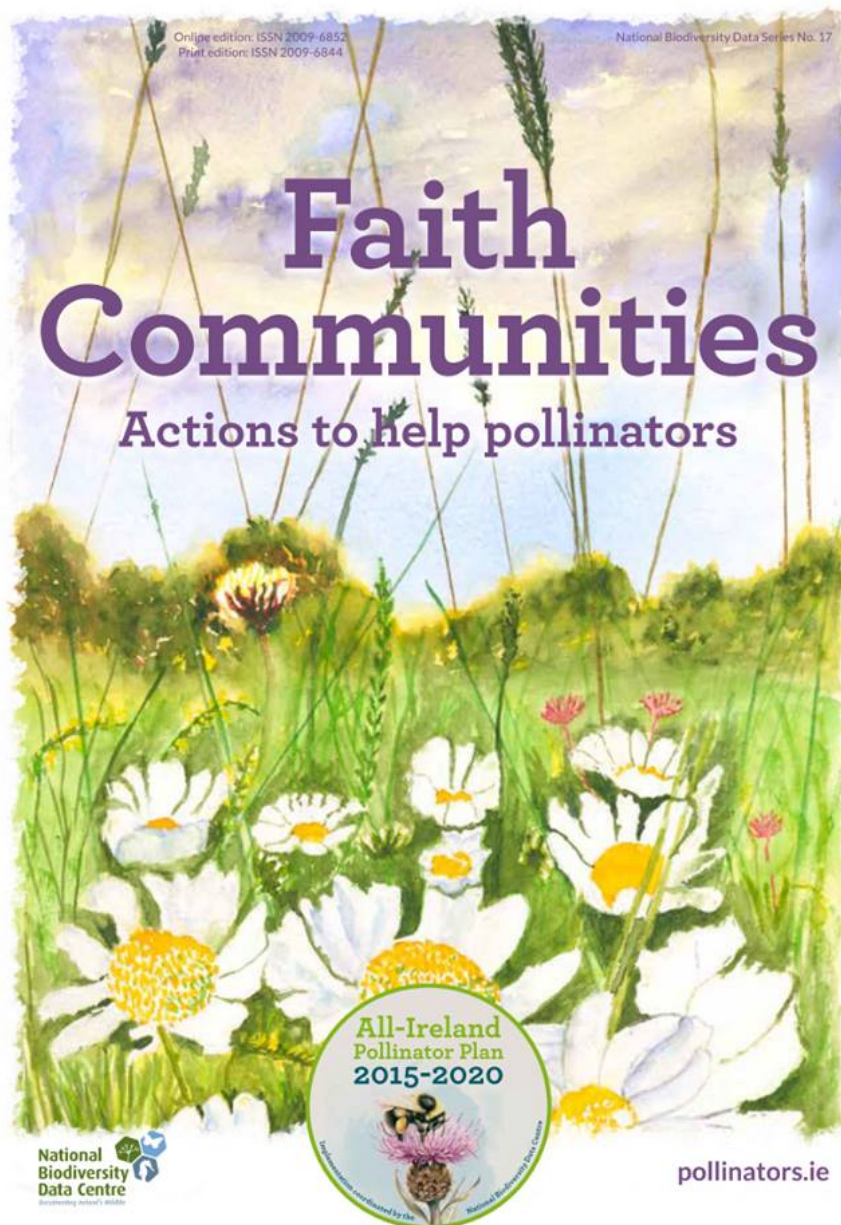
CMSI says - "We'd love to see more folk joining with those who have already signed up for the main Ignite conference on Saturday 15th September.

"We'd particularly encourage you to consider joining us for the **Friday Extra** Residential Programme which includes the CMSI Family communion service, and a chance to hear more from our global guests?"

[Find out more and book your place at Ignite.](#)

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan guideline for faith communities released

A new All-Ireland Pollinator Plan guideline document for Faith Communities has just been released!



Faith Communities across the island are being called on to take actions to help save our bees. Faith Communities often own large areas of land and can lead the way in managing our landscape to better support and enhance all nature and creation.

Some 24 pollinator friendly actions

have been recommended for all Faith Communities to take, whether it is mowing areas of grass using a pollinator-friendly regime, installing a bee hotel, raising awareness in your faith community, planting pollinator friendly bulbs, trees, shrubs and flower beds or reducing the use of pesticides - any Faith Community help in the collective effort to help conserve our pollinators!

To read more about the document and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan visit: <https://bit.ly/2BfmY28>

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To download your own Faith Communities guideline document visit: <https://bit.ly/2KUvbbq>

Vatican breaks silence to voice 'shame and sorrow' over damning Pennsylvania sex abuse report

The Vatican expressed 'shame and sorrow' on Thursday over revelations that Roman Catholic priests in Pennsylvania sexually abused about 1,000 people over seven decades, vowing to hold abusers and those who protected them accountable.

In a long statement that broke the Vatican's silence over a damning US grand jury report that has shaken the American Church, spokesman Greg Burke said the Holy See was taking the report 'with great seriousness'.

He stressed the 'need to comply' with civil law, including mandatory reporting of abuse against minors and said Pope Francis understands how 'these crimes can shake the faith and spirit of believers' and that the pontiff wanted to 'root out this tragic horror'.

The grand jury on Tuesday released the findings of the largest-ever investigation of sex abuse in the US Catholic Church, finding that 301 priests in the state had sexually abused minors over the past 70 years.

It contained graphic examples of children being groomed and sexually abused by priests.

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'The abuses described in the report are criminal and morally reprehensible. Those acts were betrayals of trust that robbed survivors of their dignity and their faith,' Burke said.

'The Church must learn hard lessons from its past, and there should be accountability for both abusers and those who permitted abuse to occur,' he said.

His statement came hours after US bishops called for a Vatican-led probe backed by lay investigators into allegations of sexual abuse by former Washington Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, who resigned last month. The Vatican did not directly address their request.

Pope Francis accepted McCarrick's resignation in July after American church officials said allegations that he sexually abused a 16-year-old boy almost 50 years ago were credible and substantiated.

McCarrick was possibly the first cardinal to resign since French theologian Louis Billot, who according to the National Catholic Reporter, a US newspaper, left over a disagreement with Pope Pius XI in 1927.

'The overarching goal in all of this is stronger protections against predators in the Church and anyone who would conceal them, protections that will hold bishops to the highest standards of transparency and accountability,' Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a statement.

The bishops said they would create a new way to report accusations of sexual abuse by clergy members and for

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claims to be investigated without interference from bishops overseeing priests accused of sex abuse. They said it would involve more church members who were not clergy but had expertise in law enforcement or psychology.

Nick Ingala, a spokesman for Voice of the Faithful, a group formed to promote parishioners' voices after the abuse scandal surfaced, said it was heartening that bishops wanted to set up an independent review process but he expressed scepticism that it would be successful.

'I don't know how they are going to work that out,' Ingala said in a telephone interview. 'I'm always hesitant to give 100 per cent credence to any plan the bishops put forth based upon experiences in the past.'

The Pennsylvania grand jury report was the latest revelation in a scandal that erupted onto the global stage in 2002, when the Boston Globe newspaper reported that for decades, priests had sexually assaulted minors while church leaders covered up their crimes.

Similar reports have emerged in Europe, Australia and Chile, prompting lawsuits and investigations, sending dioceses into bankruptcy and undercutting the moral authority of the leadership of the Catholic Church, which has some 1.2 billion members around the world.

News briefs

+++Ecumenical pilgrimage to Assisi - Christians from different denominations will take part in a pilgrimage from

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Assisi to the COP24 U.N. climate change conference in Poland, after a two-day ecumenical prayer event. The Season of Creation began as an initiative from the Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios in 1989. It has since been endorsed and recommended to the Anglican Communion by the Anglican Consultative Council; and by Pope Francis for the Roman Catholic Church. It runs from the World Day of Prayer for Creation on Sept. 1 to the feast of St Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4.

+++Anglican church in Genoa responds to disaster - The Holy Ghost Anglican Church in Genoa, Italy, says that its members living near the site of a collapsed motorway bridge have all been reported safe. But it says that “there is a concern for all who are bereaved, injured or missing.” At least 39 people were killed when a section of the Ponte Morandi collapsed and around 20 people were thought to be missing as rescuers continue to search the Polcevera river, the Genoa to Turin and Milan railway lines, and the Ansaldo Energia industrial area below the bridge. On [its Facebook page](#), the Church and Friends of the Holy Ghost, Genoa, offer their “Prayers for all caught up in the collapse of the bridge.” They ask their followers to “please remember those who were killed, and the survivors, and pray for their families and friends. Give thanks for the work of the emergency services and those making the rest of the structure safe (and pray for their safety). Give thanks, too, that those members of our congregation who live nearby are reported to be safe.”

+++New Zealand Cathedral moves closer to reopening after earthquake - Moves to re-open St. Mary’s Cathedral in Taranaki on New Zealand’s North Island have moved a

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step closer after receiving local approval for structural improvements that have been described as a best-practice blueprint that could be applied to other heritage buildings. The cathedral has been closed since February 2016 after a structural survey showed that it was rated at below 15 percent of the national building standards. In addition to earthquake strengthening, the cathedral will undergo a number of additional developments and refurbishment.



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