



## **The 'Magnificat': Southwark Cathedral's favourite feline lands book deal**

Last week Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, announced the arrival of a feline staff member which now has its own Twitter account, however the Dublin cat has a way to go yet. London's Southwark Cathedral's favourite feline,

nicknamed 'Doorkins Magnificat', has obtained her first book deal.

The cat gained the name 'Doorkins' after often waiting by the doors of Southwark Cathedral, since she was first encountered there by Verger Paul Timms in 2008. Timms, who is now responsible for the cat, told [Spitalfields Life](#) that the name is not a reference to renowned atheist Richard Dawkins, though it is often thought to be. The more theological name 'Magnificat' was chosen by the clergy.

*Practising my speech for Sunday. Thank you for coming..Meow meow meow meow meow meow  
meow meow meow meow meow meow  
meow..buy the book*

August 18

The book, written by Lisa Gutwein, married to a cathedral verger, and illustrated by Rowan Ambrose, provides a tour of the cathedral while chronicling Doorkins' real-life adventures. Published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers, the book has won a commendation from London's mayor Sadiq Khan.

It's not the first time a locally-beloved pet has been the subject of a book. *Buster's Diaries* was written by British politician Roy Hattersley, in which the author wrote in the voice of his famous dog. Larry, the popular Downing Street cat, has also made news in recent years, and the 2011 book *Larry's Diaries* was written in the voice of the cat.

*'Doorkins the Cathedral Cat' will be on sale from August 21 at £10.99.*

## **Prayer Walk in Belfast docks to support Mission to Seafarers**

The September Prayer Walk facilitated by the North Belfast Centre of Mission will take place at Belfast Docks on Monday September 11.

This will be a great opportunity to get alongside and support the Rev Colin Hall-Thompson,

August 18



Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers. This ministry provides pastoral support and care for the crews of the many ships that frequent Belfast from all round the world.

Anyone interested in taking part in the walk should meet at the Docks (directions below) at 7.30pm to pray and speak blessing over this ministry and the area and then come back after the walk for a cup of tea.

The Mission to Seafarers' Flying Angel Centre is situated in Corry Road at main gate to the port. Come under M2 flyover (Dock Street) opposite Cityside Shopping Centre and the building is directly ahead on right beside port gate. Turn

August 18

right off Dock Street, just short of the centre and then immediately left (Princess Dock Street). There is usually plenty of space to park in the evenings.

Connor evangelists Stephen Whitten and Karen Webb extend a warm welcome to join this Prayer Walk.

## **Pope says sexual abuse by priests is a 'monstrosity', in new book**



Pope Francis has described the sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests as a "monstrosity" and has vowed to take action against perpetrators and bishops who protected them.

His comments were made in the foreword to a new memoir by a survivor of clerical abuse who

August 18

was first raped by a priest when he was eight years old.



Father, I Forgive You: Abused But Not Broken was written by Swiss man Daniel Pittet, 58. In it, the pontiff called sexual abuse "an absolute monstrosity, a terrible sin that contradicts everything that the Church teaches".

In the foreword, published on Wednesday by the German daily Bild, the pope said the fate of abused children weighed on his soul, especially those who had taken their own lives.

He said: "We will counter those priests who betrayed their calling with the most strenuous measures. This also applies to the bishops and

August 18

cardinals who protected these priests - as happened repeatedly in the past."

Since his election in 2013, Pope Francis has said he will take a "zero tolerance" approach towards clergy who sexually abuse children.

In a letter released last year by the Vatican, he said: "I would like us to renew our complete commitment to ensuring that these atrocities will no longer take place in our midst."

However, victims have criticised the Vatican for not doing enough to prevent it.

Pope Francis praised Pittet - who endured four years of rapes, abuse and exposure to pornography - for having the courage to tell his stories and forgive his abuser 44 years after he was first molested.

According to excerpts released by German publisher Herder, Pittet indicates that his act of forgiveness had nothing to do with human justice or denial.

He wrote: "Forgiveness does not heal the wounds or wipe away the misery ... forgiving him has allowed me to burst the chains that bound me to him and prevented me from living."

August 18

## **Election of the Archbishop of Wales – Sept 5-7**



A parish church in a Victorian spa town in the heart of Wales will host an important event in September – the election of the next Archbishop of Wales.

The doors of Holy Trinity Church in Llandrindod Wells will be locked for up to three days on September 5 as the Electoral College meets inside to choose the 13th Archbishop of Wales.

The mid-Wales town has been the location for the election of all the Archbishops of Wales since the first in 1920, due to its central location.



August 18



## **Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod Wells**

This election follows the retirement of Dr Barry Morgan who held the office of Archbishop of Wales for 14 years. His successor will be chosen from among the six serving Welsh diocesan bishops – the Bishop of Swansea & Brecon, John Davies, the Bishop of Bangor, Andy John, the Bishop of St Asaph, Gregory Cameron, the Bishop of Monmouth, Richard Pain, the Bishop of St Davids, Joanna Penberthy and the Bishop of Llandaff, June Osborne.

Those making the decision represent churches across Wales. Each of the six dioceses elects three clerics and three lay people onto the

August 18

College and the bishops are also members – making a total of 42 people. The College President is the Senior Bishop, Bishop John Davies.

The meeting will begin with a public service of Holy Communion to which everyone is welcome. Following that, however, only college members and staff supporting the work of the college, will be allowed to remain in the church as its discussions are confidential.

The meeting will begin with a discussion on the needs of the Province and a period of prayer and reflection. Then the President will call for nominations. The bishops nominated then withdraw from the discussion, only returning to vote. A nominee must achieve two-thirds of the votes of the college in order to be elected Archbishop. If after a vote is taken no candidate receives the necessary votes, the process begins again with fresh nominations, which may or may not include those who had been nominated in the previous round.

Once the Archbishop is elected, the church doors will open and the announcement made. The normal practice is for the bishop to confirm his or her election immediately. The new

August 18

Archbishop is then enthroned in his or her home cathedral.

The College can take up to three days to elect an Archbishop. If it fails to do so after this time, the decision passes to the Bench of Bishops.

More information about the Welsh diocesan bishops

Photographs of the previous Archbishops

## **Charlottesville faith community looks ahead after uniting against white supremacist march**

Episcopal clergy and other Charlottesville, Virginia, religious leaders joined hundreds of mourners Aug. 16 in remembering the woman killed amid the weekend's violent clashes between white supremacists and counter-protesters, as the city's interfaith community takes stock and begins looking ahead.

"They tried to kill my child to shut her up," Susan Bro, mother of Heather Heyer, said at a memorial service held in Charlottesville's Paramount Theater. "Well guess what? You just magnified her."



**Mourners and clergy, including the Rev. Elaine Thomas, second from right, pray outside the memorial service for Heather Heyer on Aug. 16, 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia.**

Heyer, 32, was part of a crowd of counter-protesters that was rammed by a car Aug. 12, killing her and injuring 19 others. A 20-year-old Nazi sympathizer from Ohio has been charged with her murder.

The Rev. Elaine Thomas, associate rector at St. Paul's Memorial Church, was among the Episcopal clergy who turned out for Heyer's memorial service, part of a larger group of interfaith clergy that gathered earlier in the morning for their first weekly meeting since the

August 18



weekend melee. Members of the group, known as the Charlottesville Clergy Collective, were prepared to stand outside the theater as a peaceful, protective barrier if necessary –

“We want to make sure we are there in prayerful presence,” Thomas said – but no major disruptions were reported at the service.

The collective began meeting nearly every Wednesday this summer to coordinate its response as Charlottesville braced for hundreds of neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan members and other white supremacists to descend on the city for what they billed as a “Unite the Right” rally. The city became a magnet for leaders of the self-

August 18



described “alt-right” movement after the City Council voted to take down a statue of Confederate Civil War general Robert E. Lee, a decision now being disputed in court.

The rally Aug. 12, however, was canceled just before it was to start. The city deemed it an unlawful assembly after club-wielding and gun-toting white supremacists began clashing with counter-protesters, some of whom also carried weapons. Heyer, a Charlottesville paralegal, was killed later in the afternoon.



August 18

Several dozen clergy members regularly participate in the Charlottesville Clergy Collective meetings, and Thomas said much of the Wednesday breakfast gathering was spent discussing the weekend's events and preparing for Heyer's memorial service.

Charlottesville has become a flashpoint in the national debate over removal of Confederate statues and memorials, said the Rev. Cass Bailey, vicar of Trinity Episcopal Church in Charlottesville, but the collective's mission remains focused on local outreach.

## **President of the biggest Christian university in the world backs Trump on Charlottesville**

The president of the biggest Christian university in the world has praised Donald Trump for his controversial response to **a white nationalist rally at the weekend which turned deadly.**

Jerry Falwell Jr from Liberty University in Virginia congratulated the United States president on his "bold" and "truthful" reaction to violence which gripped the city of Charlottesville in the state on Saturday.

August 18



Writing on Twitter, he said: "Finally a leader in the White House. Jobs returning, North Korea backing down, bold truthful statement about Charlottesville tragedy. So proud of Donald Trump."

White supremacists gathered in Charlottesville on Saturday to protest what they saw as an "anti-white" attitude in the US, and to oppose the removal of a statue remembering a Confederate general.

A woman, 32 year old Heather Heyer, was killed when a car ploughed into counter-demonstrators in the city. Hundreds of people attended a candlelit vigil in her memory at the University of Virginia on Wednesday night.

Donald Trump came in for heavy criticism when he used a heated press conference on Tuesday



August 18

night to say the counter-protesters were just as much at fault as the white nationalists who opposed them.

His remarks displeased members of his own party, business leaders and advisors who wanted him to specifically condemn Klu Klux Klan members and neo-Nazis who were involved in the Charlottesville rally.

Twitter user, Jana Manning wrote: "As a black student at LU, I'm curious, how do you support Trump's statements on CVille but praise on how diverse liberty university is??"

Another, Wendy Alsup, said: "Really harmful thing to say for a Christian who in theory believes the Bible. White supremacy incompatible w/ Scripture starting in Gen 1."

The son of a church leader, Jerry Falwell Jr became president of Liberty University in May 2007. He has been a long-term supporter of Mr Trump.

A statement on the institution's website says: "His goal for the university is to fulfill the original vision to provide a world class educational experience that will Train Champions for Christ

August 18

who are fully equipped for successful careers in every profession."

Founded in 1971, Liberty University is the country's largest private, non-profit university in US, boasting 110,000 enrolled students.

## Press watch

### **Pope phones Argentinian who spoke of abuse by Irish priest**

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/pope-phones-argentinian-who-spoke-of-abuse-by-irish-priest-1.3188872?mode=sample&auth-failed=1&pw-origin=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishtimes.com%2Fnews%2Fsocial-affairs%2Freligion->

### **Ex-missionary Maud Kells to address Bangor Convention**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/exmissionary-maud-kells-to-address-bangor-convention-36038954.html?utm>

**'Britain's Irish border pledge' - thought provoking article by former Irish diplomat raises questions about Ireland's future in Europe. From Daily Telegraph**

[>> Click here to read.](#)

August 18

## **UK's 'blueprint' for border after Brexit splits opinion down familiar party lines**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/uks-blueprint-for-border-after-brexit-splits-opinion-down-familiar-party-lines-36040136.html?utm>

## **Coveney: Ireland will not be used as 'pawn' in EU-UK talks**

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/coveney-ireland-will-not-be-used-as-pawn-in-eu-uk-talks-1.3188523?mode=amp>

## **Guard**

Report that the Trussell Trust charity has said that 42 of its food banks – around 10% of its network – released an urgent appeal for items on social media or local media in the past three months. The article quotes James Milton, operations support manager at Trussell Trust.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/aug/16/austerity-causing-suffering-record-number-food-banks-stock-shortage>

## **BBC**

Reports that the 13<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Wales is set to be elected in September.  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-40951938>  
<https://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/New-Archbishop-of-Wales-to-be-elected-in-September>

August 18

## **Sun**

Profile of broadcaster and Church of England priest Rev Richard Coles, one of the contestants in this year's Strictly Come Dancing.

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/tvandshowbiz/4260627/reverend-richard-coles-stricty-come-dancing-the-communards/>

# CNI