

## Launch of Drumcliffe Centre of Mission



**Aaron Jones (youth worker, Drumcliffe Group of Parishes), Alan Williamson (pioneer evangelist) and the Ven. Capt. Isaac Hanna (Rector of the Drumcliffe Group of Parishes).**

On Wednesday 6 September, Church Army, in partnership with the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, will launch the Drumcliffe Centre of Mission in Co. Sligo.

This centre, based on the site of an historic monastery established by St Columba some

1,400 years ago, draws inspiration from the past to inspire the future. It aims to be a focal point for outreach both to people in the west of Ireland and to the many visitors to the area.

The Ven. Capt. Isaac Hanna (Rector of the Drumcliffe Group of Parishes and Church Army evangelist), has been appointed as the centre's lead evangelist. He will be supported in this role by pioneer evangelist, Alan Williamson. The Church Army team are planning a wide range of community events and fresh expressions of church to engage with people of all ages living in the area.

"I've seen Christ's power and presence in people's lives transform even the most desperate situations," says Isaac, "My vision is for the Drumcliffe Centre of Mission to be a hub for people to have life-changing encounters with God, build eternal relationships and be equipped to live life to the full."

The Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, Ferran Glenfield, who will commission the new centre said "Our God is a God of mission. He calls people and sends them out into the world. This is the pattern we see in the Bible and this is what's taking shape in the Drumcliffe Centre of Mission. I commend this initiative and

partnership in the Gospel and pray that many will be reached in the West of Ireland and beyond.”

## **New Dean of Limerick**

Canon Niall Sloane, Rector of Holy Trinity Killiney in the Diocese of Dublin, is to be the next Rector of Limerick City Parish and Dean of Limerick.

Canon Sloane was educated at Trinity College, the Milltown Institute and the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin.

He was ordained in 2005 and served as curate assistant in Agherton Parish, Portstewart and then as senior curate assistant in Taney Parish, Dundrum. He is currently Rector of Holy Trinity, Killiney in the Diocese of Dublin.

Canon Sloane is also Chancellor of St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, a position he will retain, Secretary of the General Synod Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, a governor of St Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School and of Rathdown School, Dublin, and a member of the Irish Inter-Church Committee. He is also Chair of the Sunday School Society of Ireland.



Canon Sloane is originally from County Cavan. He is married to Karen and they have a one year old daughter, Evelyn.

Commenting on his appointment Canon Sloane said: “I am delighted to have the opportunity of becoming the next Rector & Dean of Limerick. I am very conscious of the great legacy built up there by previous Deans and as I hope to add to this, I am aware that I very privileged to be moving to the city at a very exciting time. St Mary’s Cathedral is rooted in the ancient Christian heritage of the South West and next year marks the 850th anniversary of its foundation. Together with St Michael’s and Abington they are all committed to serving the wider communities of the Diocese and City of Limerick. I look forward to getting to know the

people of Limerick and my new colleagues, in particular, the Revd Edna Wakely who has been looking after the parish with great care and diligence.”

Bishop Kenneth Kearon writes: “I am delighted Canon Sloane has accepted this appointment. He brings a wide range of gifts and pastoral experience, and I look forward to working with him in both the parish and diocese. We all, look forward to welcoming Niall, Karen and Evelyn to Limerick.”

A date for his installation will be announced shortly.

## **Church fund raising cyclists complete Tour d'Ards**

It was tough, but Stephen Doherty and Paul Hawkins from Glen Community Church, Newtownards, did it! They completed their ‘Tour D’Ards’ 50 mile fundraising cycle on Saturday 26 August and arrived back to a warm welcome at the Glen Community Centre.

At the time of writing they have reached 65% of their target but there are a few more days to go before their *Just Giving Page* closes.

Stephen says: “Even if it’s only a fiver or a tenner, it all goes towards ensuring our ministries (for the youth and children of the Glen, as well as the overall community) continues. Please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stephen-doherty> and support as you can.”

## **Cork Mayor’s annual visit to Bishop’s Palace**

On Monday the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Georgina Fitzgerald, were welcomed to The Bishop’s Palace by the Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, and Mrs Susan Colton.

The Lord Mayor was accompanied also by Mr Pat Ledwidge, Deputy Chief Executive of Cork City Council.

Each year, the Lord Mayor of Cork makes a courtesy call to the Bishop, and it’s an opportunity for wide-ranging conversation about



**Courtesy call to the Bishop's Palace (left to right): Mr Pat Ledwidge, Mrs Susan Colton, Dr Paul Colton, the Lord Mayor of Cork, and the Lady Mayoress.**

life in the City of Cork and issues in which Church and City Council are engaging.

## **Limerick church deconsecrated**

On Thursday 24th August, Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, the Rt Revd Kenneth Kearon, and Rector, the Revd Canon Bob Hanna, led a service of deconsecration of the Church of St James, Kilfieragh.

Although there is always a sadness in saying farewell to a loved building, with all the memories it carries, there was also a firm sense of Thanksgiving for the work God has done there over the years through the hard work and dedication of its ministers and congregations. This was reflected in the words of the deconsecration liturgy, which offers hope for the future and reassurance that even though buildings are impermanent, the Church remains.

Together, the people of St James 'returned the space to the common, and the place to the earth'. and received the comfort of Bishop Kenneth proclaiming that 'God will still be present here, for He is always everywhere present. God might still meet us and act in this space, for God can meet us and act anywhere.'

And then, before the stripping of the Altar, their commitment to the future sounded out from within the building into God's wider creation – 'And now we, Your people, called to fulfill Your purpose, will meet elsewhere, to continue Your work, in the power of Your presence.'



## Anglican Church elects Australia's first female Archbishop



The Anglican Church in Australia has elected its first female Archbishop.

Rt Rev Kay Goldsworthy will lead the West Australian division, replacing Roger Herft who stood down from the top job after admitting he let down survivors of child sexual abuse during Royal Commission hearings last year.

The Archbishop-elect is currently Bishop of Gippsland in Victoria. She was among the first women in Australia to be ordained as a bishop in 2008.

Bishop Kay, who is married with two adult sons, told ABC that she hoped her election as

Archbishop would inspire other women in the Church to seek leadership roles.

She said: "In all sorts of ways, I think what it says is that for most...people and places in the Church in Australia, the issue of women's leadership is really no longer an issue."

The Anglican Church in Perth has been without a leader since December when Archbishop Herft announced his retirement a year ahead of schedule amid pressure over his handling of historic abuse cases in the Newcastle diocese, where he was Bishop between 1993 and 2005.

The administrator of the Anglican diocese of Perth, Kate Wilmot, welcomed the appointment and told The Australian: "The archbishop-elect has fulfilled her ministry for more than three decades in three Australian dioceses and brings a breadth and depth of wisdom and an ability to collaborate with diverse members of the church community.

"Bishop Kay has a wealth of diocesan, national and international experience, including being a longstanding member of General Synod and a member of the international Anglican Consultative Council."

Bishop Goldsworthy will be installed as Perth's eighth archbishop in St George's Cathedral in February.

## **'Racism is America's original sin': 3,000 pastors march in Washington to protest white supremacy**

Thousands of pastors and religious leaders marched in Washington, DC on Monday in a politically charged protest against white supremacy.

As many as 3,000 religious leaders, spanning a range of traditions, gathered on Monday as part of a demonstration titled 'One Thousand Ministers March for Justice,' as **RNS reported**.

The march was intended as a faith-based protest against hate crimes and discrimination, held on the 54th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr's March on Washington, in which King made the infamous 'I have a dream speech'. However, the recent white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, Virginia – and its political



## **Clergy leading Monday's 'march for justice' in Washington DC.**

fallout – escalated the import of and interest in the event.

'We wanted to say this nation is in moral trouble,' said the African-American Rev Al Sharpton, whose organization National Action Network organized the rally.

He added: 'You're going to see the victims of Nazism, the victims of white supremacy march today to the Justice Department. And say we don't care what party's in. We are not going to be out.'

The activist and pastor Rev Jim Wallis was amongst the assembled, and urged the need for

clergy to speak out against white supremacy. 'We have to preach from every pulpit in America that racism is America's original sin,' he said.

Sikh leader Rajwant Singh spoke to the crowd: 'Let me tell all the white supremacists and KKK and everybody that America is a multifaith country — Do you all agree? America belongs to all of us.'

Baltimore Methodist Episcopal pastor Rev. Jamal-Harrison Bryant criticised the evangelical advisers surrounding Trump who support the 'lie' that 'Donald Trump is a man of God'. 'They do not reflect the body of Christ at large', Bryant said. 'He [Trump] is not God's man.'

## **92 victims of sex trafficking in Ireland supported by Ruhama in 2016**

Ruhama, the frontline service for women affected by prostitution and sex trafficking, has called on the government to use all tools at its disposal to tackle the organised crime networks that control prostitution and sex trafficking across Ireland.



Releasing its annual report for 2016, the NGO revealed it supported 304 women from 37 different nationalities during 2016, including 92 victims of sex trafficking from four continents.

Some of these women experienced rape, assault and many other forms of psychological, physical and sexual violence.

Intensive support from Ruhama's casework service was required by 222 women. Most had been sexually exploited in brothels, massage parlours, hotel rooms and apartments across the country.

A further 63 women in street prostitution accessed support via Ruhama's mobile outreach van, which takes to the streets of Dublin's 'red-light' areas 3 to 4 times a week.

In 2016 alone, Ruhama saw 99 new victims of Ireland's sex trade.

“The bulk of prostitution in Ireland is run by organised crime gangs who profit from the sexual exploitation of women and girls, particularly in off-street locations. These unscrupulous individuals make money from human misery – moving often vulnerable migrant women in a coordinated fashion from brothel to brothel across Ireland, with a view to satisfying local sex buyers' demands,” Sarah Benson, CEO of Ruhama, said.

She added that since March of this year, important new laws have been in place in Ireland to protect those harmed in prostitution, as part of the Sexual Offences Act 2017.

“It is now illegal to purchase sex in this country and the penalties for organising and profiting from prostitution have been increased. More needs to be done to ensure that these laws are properly enforced, in order to achieve their objective to minimise the inherent harm of a wholly exploitative trade,” she said.

The Sexual Offences Act 2017 also decriminalises those selling sex outdoors, something Ruhama has long campaigned for.

“It was already permissible for individuals to sell sex indoors and so now there is a recognition enshrined in law that no one should be criminalised for their own exploitation in Ireland. It is incumbent on Gardaí to ensure that they do not target vulnerable people in prostitution for criminal sanction.

“The vast majority of those in prostitution are women, and there are also a small number of transwomen and men. All may be victims of many different crimes, including human trafficking. Garda focus should be targeted towards the buyers and those who are genuinely profiting from the prostitution of others.”

Ruhama has called on the government to fully resource the Garda National Protective Services Bureau and regional bureaus so that they can take down the organised crime networks that control prostitution and sex trafficking in Ireland.

Ruhama has also called on the government to mount a public awareness campaign to ensure that people know that “this is now a country where no human being can be considered for sale”.

Chairman of Ruhama, Colm O’Dwyer, states in the annual report, “There is undoubtedly a



continuing and growing need for Ruhama's services."

While prostitution has largely moved off the streets into anonymous apartments, massage parlours and suburban housing estates, he warned that "it seems to have become quite pervasive in Ireland over the past few years. Unfortunately, 'off-street' prostitution is easier for criminal gangs to control and well suited to the exploitation of vulnerable women through trafficking. Out of sight is out of mind and the women are often, literally, trapped. Ruhama, we hope, provides some realistic chance of escape."

He reiterated Ruhama's view that prostitution and trafficking are inextricably linked.

Women (and girls) are frequently brought to Ireland into brothels under false pretences, by blackmail and by coercion. A woman in a brothel may have had her ID documents and passport taken and may be moved on a regular basis. She may not have English or any immigration status. Contrary to popular belief, she could also be Irish or a citizen of an EU Member State.

The repeal of the offence of soliciting for prostitution coupled with the criminalisation of the purchase of sex (the buyer), brings Ireland's

prostitution laws in line with the 'Nordic model', recognising the human rights violations experienced by the majority of women who end up involved in prostitution.

Colm O'Dwyer stressed that "So-called 'sex work' is rarely a free choice, but rather a result of circumstances such as poverty, trafficking or drug addiction."

Ruhama's outreach van took to the streets of Dublin's 'red light' areas on 130 nights in 2016, reaching out to a total of 63 women involved in street prostitution. The van is a safe space where women can access very practical supports such as hot drinks, snacks, hats and gloves and health and safety supplies, alongside much-needed emotional support and onward referrals to their own and other specialist services.

The women in street prostitution, according to Ruhama, were often leading complex and sometimes chaotic lives. They were typically facing a range of vulnerabilities and challenges including poor physical and mental health, domestic violence, substance use issues, poverty and debt, and homelessness or the risk of it.

They also had to cope with serious dangers whilst selling sex on the street – many women

reported being threatened, robbed, and physically or sexually assaulted.

Reflecting the global nature of the international sex trade, in 2016 Ruhama supported women from South America, Asia, Africa, Western and Eastern Europe.

The women accessing casework in 2016 most commonly originated from:

- Ireland (56 women)
- Nigeria (47 women)
- Brazil (28 women)
- Romania (20 women)

“Like me, some of us end up homeless, if we left the brothel we live in, or the pimp ‘boyfriend’ or we simply lost our homes when we stop making the rent. Prostitution, if it is anything, is a choice between homelessness and having men we don’t like do things we hate,” said Rae Story, prostitution survivor and activist.

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