



Derry parish hit by flooding

Glendermott parishioners are counting the cost of Tuesday night's flooding in Londonderry. The parish's charity shop, Another Chance, which was opened less than two years ago, was badly affected by last night's downpour in the north west.

“It looks as if we’ll lose almost all of our stock,” said local curate Rev Arthur Burns, who visited the premises, at the foot of Church Brae, early this morning to see the damage at first hand.

“Our electricity’s been knocked out and we’re facing a huge ‘clean-up’”, he said.

The scene which greeted the minister when he arrived at the shop was one of ruination, with Bibles scattered among the mannequins and items of clothing littering the floor. “We believe the floodwater rose to a level of about three feet,” Rev Burns said. “We had new kitchen equipment installed less than two months ago, and it looks like that’s been destroyed. The shop was re-wired only a fortnight ago. That’ll have to be checked again. The only light we have is from the emergency lighting on the ceiling.”

The minister, his wife Norma and Rector’s Church Warden Colin Lowry sifted through the debris to assess the extent of the damage. They’ll be surprised if any of the stock survives. Crockery on top of a table was still full of water hours after the flooding had subsided. “It looks as if pretty much all of this will have to go,” Rev Burns said, as he surveyed the scene.

Mrs Burns said the parish had been planning to host a coffee morning in the Another Chance shop on September 30th for Macmillan Cancer Support. “If we have our way, that will still go ahead,” she said. “It’s going to take a lot of hard work but we’re determined to still do our bit for Macmillan.”

Rev Burns agreed that they faced an arduous job to clean the shop up again but was adamant that Another Chance would be back in business as soon as possible.

Another Chance was opened by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, in November 2015 to serve the community in the Tullyally area. The 'not-for-profit' shop and outreach centre was part of the parish's contribution to the Year of Opportunity in the diocese.

Flooding in north west heartbreaking to hear and see, Bishop Good

Bishop Ken Good says: 'It has been heartbreaking to hear and see the extent of suffering and hardship experienced by those affected by this week's flooding in the North West. The ferocity of Tuesday evening's thunderstorms was perhaps unprecedented in this region; it was certainly not predicted. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the response teams – from various agencies – who tried to help people as the waters rose. It is essential, though, that an extensive review is carried out to establish what lessons need to be learned from



Bishop Ken Good with Rev Judi McGaffin (third left), volunteers and visitors at Christ Church Buncrana’s Wedding Dress Festival, which opened as scheduled yesterday morning overcoming the effects of this week’s flooding

this week’s event and to ensure that these are addressed.

‘A number of Church of Ireland churches were directly affected by the flooding in Faughanvale and Buncrana, and a charity shop and outreach centre in Glendermott Parish was extensively damaged. I recognise how distressing these incidents were for parishioners, but clearly that pales in comparison to the distress of many of our neighbours who were hit much harder: homes were inundated, property destroyed, cars

literally washed away. Thankfully no lives were lost and that is something to be grateful for.

‘The flood victims – from Buncrana and Burnfoot, to Drumahoe and Eglinton – are uppermost in my thoughts and prayers at this time. I do wish to commend local clergy, church volunteers, parishioners and others who responded to the flooding in churches and church buildings. I am proud of what they did and grateful for their efforts. I am touched and encouraged by the love they have shown for their churches. If there is one positive to be drawn from the harrowing events of last Tuesday, it is surely the confirmation that community spirit is alive and well in our midst. Long may that continue.’

Spiritual adviser to Trump claims President has been raised up by God

One of President Donald Trump's spiritual advisers has claimed the President is a "king" installed by God and opposing him is "fighting against the hand of God".



Speaking on Pastor Jim Bakker's television show, the televangelist and pastor Paula Michelle White-Cain (above), better known as Paula White, said: "Whether people like him or not, [Mr Trump] has been raised up by God, because God says that He raises up and places all people in places of authority."

White has known Donald Trump since the early 2000s and she is thought to be one of the president's closest spiritual advisers. She prayed at his inauguration, appeared with him when he signed his executive order easing restrictions on pastors engaging in politics, and told evangelical TV host Jim Bakker she is in the White House at least weekly.

In her appearance on Baker's television show, she added: "It is God that raises up a king, it is God that sets one down and so when you fight

against the plan of God, you're fighting against the hand of God."

She also compared Mr Trump to Esther in the Bible who rose from her childhood as an orphan to become the Queen of Persia. She said, like Esther, Mr Trump rose from an unconventional background to become a great leader

She said: "They even say that about our President, 'Well he's not presidential'

"Thank goodness! And I mean that with all due respect, because, in other words, he's not a polished politician."

Mr Trump has previously called White a "beautiful person" with "amazing insight".

White, has defended Mr Trump a number of times, telling reporters that he "absolutely" has a relationship with God.

She told Politico: "He is a Christian, he accepts Jesus as his Lord and saviour."

While White has condemned white supremacy as "evil", she didn't mention the President's controversial response to the recent white nationalist rally which turned deadly.

Mr Trump came in for heavy criticism when he used a heated press conference to say the counter-protesters were just as much at fault as the white nationalists who opposed them.

Bible Sunday resources online and available for download



Bible Society NI's Bible Sunday resources for 2017 are now available for download. This

continues to be a popular resource with free material for use in your church.

This year's Bible Sunday pack is called 'ACTIVE' and it is based on Colossians 3:12–17. You can download the full pack, or dip in and out, using parts that work for you.

Browse and download the material using the link below.

[Bible Sunday 2017: ACTIVE](#)

You can use this material at any time in the year however the Church of Ireland suggests 29 October 2017.

Why Bible Sunday? - The aim of Bible Sunday is to help place Scripture right at the very heart of our lives, our churches and our hearts. But also to challenge ourselves to look beyond our own church walls, to realise that we are exceptionally blessed to own God's Word not only in our own language but in many versions and formats, while millions around the world cannot access even a single verse in their own language. Perhaps this will help us approach the Bible with fresh eyes, with the reality of what an incredible gift we have in our hands.

Archbishop outlines themes to prepare for World Meeting of Families

The president of the 2018 World Meeting of Families stressed that “there is no such thing as the ideal family” but that “there is an ideal of family,” which is what the church is seeking to promote through the international gathering of families in Ireland.

In his homily delivered to a packed basilica at Knock Shrine in County Mayo, Dublin Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said while there is no family that is ideal, there are “families who struggle, at times heroically.”

He also asked, “How do we help our young people to encounter the path of faithful love as the only truth path toward human happiness? How do we teach fidelity in a world where everything is disposable?”

Speaking to media at the launch of the yearlong lead-in program of catechesis on “Amoris Laetitia,” Pope Francis’ postsynodal apostolic exhortation on the family, Archbishop Martin said the program was about long-term renewal, and that the international gathering, which up to 5,000 families from overseas are expected to

attend, would not be “a seven-day wonder.” The meeting is scheduled Aug. 21-26, 2018.

On the challenge of speaking to young people about lifelong fidelity, he commented, “They may say I’m getting married for life, but their understanding of for life maybe very different. It is one of the big challenges that we face, and there is no magic answer.”

He said the church must witness within society to what fidelity means and “show young people that long-term fidelity leads to a deep fulfillment, and that there is real value in that.” He also mentioned a theme of families and technology.

Referring to Pope Francis’ gestures of loving care and constant talk of God’s mercy he said, “There are even some who feel that he is in danger of reducing the significance of God’s law. Pope Francis is certainly not betraying God’s law, but he is reminding us that we — as individuals and as church — can only be messengers of God’s law if we reflect God’s love and mercy.”

Asked why he felt it was necessary to state that Pope Francis was not betraying God’s law, the Dublin archbishop said, “Because some people say he has.” He would not elaborate.

Father Timothy Bartlett, secretary-general of the 2018 World Meeting of Families, said it was “critically important” for people to understand that “none of the truths of the church, the ideals of the church or the Gospel in which it is rooted, have changed” in “Amoris Laetitia.”

He said he hoped families would use the preparation program to become familiar with what Pope Francis is saying about “the joys and challenges of being a family in the world today.”

During the ceremony in Knock basilica, Archbishop Martin unveiled and blessed a specially commissioned icon of the Holy Family by Romanian icon writer Mihai Cucu, with the assistance of the Redemptoristine Sisters in Dublin. The icon will be taken around the Irish church’s 26 dioceses to raise awareness of “Amoris Laetitia” and World Meeting of Families.

Of Pope Francis’ visit to Ireland for the closing Mass Aug. 26, 2018, Archbishop Martin said the Argentine pontiff had told him of his wish to come to Dublin for the gathering, which has the theme, “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World.”

But he stressed that the visit would be very different from when St. John Paul II came to Ireland as pope in 1979.

“Pope John Paul came to Ireland when he was 60; when Pope Francis comes, he will be over 80. So, I think we have to look at a very different style and scale.” He also stressed that Pope Francis “will come to a very different Ireland than Pope John Paul.”

Anne Griffin, general manager of World Meeting of Families 2018, said the event was aiming for a minimum daily participation of at least 15,000 people. Though registrations had opened just a few weeks ago, there were already double the number of registrations for the International Eucharistic Congress in 2012 at the same stage.

“We have a lot of interest from large groups that are coming from North America and from Europe,” she said.

Organizers also announced there will be no entry fee for people under the age of 18

Pig's head left at Muslim centre

The head of a dead pig has been left outside a Muslim community and prayer centre in **Co Down**. It is believed it was left to distress and upset local Muslim people whose faith forbids them to consume pork.

Police are investigating the incident as a hate crime.

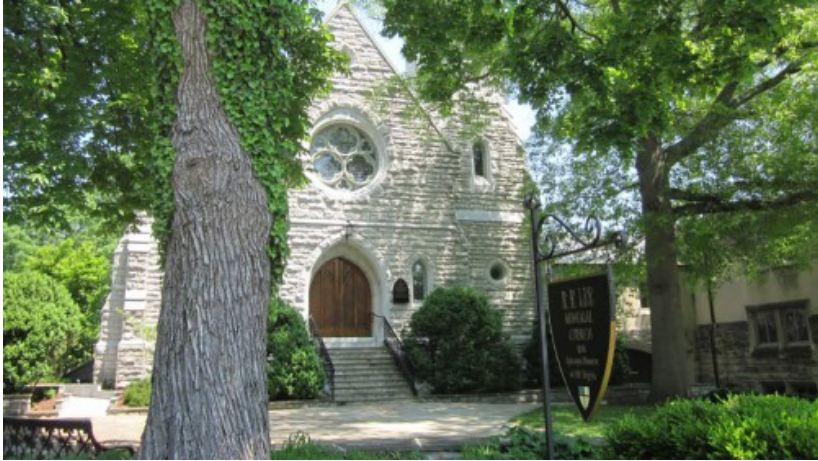
The head of the pig was placed outside the Bangladesh Islamic Community Centre in [Newtownards](#) on Greenwell Street around 11.15pm yesterday.

Graffiti was also daubed on the wall of the same building, a converted Victorian house. Police are treating the incidents as the first of two hate crimes. In the second hate crime, anti-Muslim graffiti was daubed on a nearby wall in Castle Street.

Virginia congregation deeply divided over church's name honouring Robert E. Lee

Was Robert E. Lee an American hero or a traitorous defender of slavery? The Confederate general has been called both in the ongoing debate over whether statues, monuments and plaques in his honor should be remain on display in public places, from parks to churches.

The sign in front of R.E. Lee Memorial Church bears the name of the church and, therefore,



also the Confederate general who was a parishioner there.

At least one aspect of Lee's biography is undisputed: He was a prominent parishioner at the Episcopal church that now bears his name, R.E. Lee Memorial Church in Lexington, Virginia.

And that name now threatens to tear the congregation apart.

“Change is hard, and this is about change that goes right down to our identity,” vestry member Doug Cumming told Episcopal News Service. He supports removing Lee from the name of the church.

Turmoil has grown since 2015, when the vestry first considered but failed to approve a proposal

to remove Lee's name from the church. Members began leaving the congregation in protest, and such exits continued this year after the vestry in April chose not to act on a consultant's recommendation for a name change.

Then violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, a city barely an hour northeast of Lexington, accelerated a national re-examination of the Confederacy's legacy. Defense of a statue of Lee became a rallying point for white supremacist groups, who descended on Charlottesville this month and clashed with anti-racism counter-protesters, leaving dozens wounded and one counter-protester dead.

On Monday, the Lee Memorial Church vestry held its first monthly meeting since the melee in Charlottesville. Again, it decided against taking steps toward a name change, instead unanimously approving a statement that began by condemning white supremacy, racism and violence in Lee's name.

The vestry members said they "object strenuously to the misuse of Robert E. Lee's name and memory in connection with white supremacy, anti-Semitism and similar movements that he would abhor. Lee was widely

admired in both the North and the South as a man of virtue and honor and as among the leading reconcilers of our fractured land.”

The statement defended Lee’s reputation as a Christian, though not as a Confederate.

“We do not honor Lee as a Confederate,” the statement reads. “Nor do we subscribe to neo-Confederate ideas in honoring him. We honor Lee as one of our own parishioners, a devout man who led our parish through difficult years in post-Civil-War Virginia.”

Anne Hansen, who helped craft the statement Monday, resigned from the vestry afterward because church leaders would not commit more definitively to discussing a name change.

“My hope had been that if we could make a unified statement, say something unanimously ... that we would be able to move from there into further action in a consensual way [regarding] the implications of our association with Lee,” Hansen said in an interview with ENS. “At the vestry meeting, that became apparent to me that was not going to happen.” She added that she blamed herself for getting upset and not articulating her views clearly enough.

The vestry's inaction on the issue is fueling tension inside and outside the congregation, creating an unnecessary distraction for the church, Southwestern Virginia Bishop Mark Bourlakas told Episcopal News Service. He favours the name change.

“The name has become not only a distraction to their Gospel mission, but ... it's dividing parishioners and causing all kinds of rancor,” said Bourlakas, who plans to visit the congregation this month to assist in reconciliation efforts. “My priority is to heal the congregation, and I don't believe that that healing can occur while the name stays the same.”

Church renamed for Lee in 1903

The church's history dates to 1840, when it was known as Latimer Parish but didn't have a permanent worship space. Parish records cited by Cumming show the first church building was dedicated in 1844 as Grace Church. It bore that name when when Lee joined the congregation in 1865, after the Civil War, according to a 2015 church news release.



CNI

Help CNI grow

Please commend
CNI daily news to your
friends

www.churchnewsireland.org

CNI