

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin asks parishioners to support annual Crosscare food appeal



The fifth annual Crosscare food appeal takes place across the Archdiocese of Dublin this weekend on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 December. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has asked parishioners to donate food and other needed items this weekend to help stock the

Crosscare Food Banks for the weeks leading up to Christmas.

This year collections will be held on one weekend only to allow hampers to be distributed in good time for Christmas to hundreds of families.

Last year, thanks to the enormous generosity of parishioners, Crosscare distributed more than 8,000 food hampers – over 1,400 tonnes of non-perishable food items and hygiene products to those most in need, especially families. As demand for food remains high it is hoped that people will respond in a similar manner on the first weekend in December when collections begin.

The list of items most needed this year are shampoo and hygiene Products, soups, tinned meats, seasonal biscuits and cleaning products.

Crosscare, is the social care agency of the Archdiocese of Dublin. It operates seven Food Banks around Dublin – in Brackenstown, Darndale, Glasnevin, Blanchardstown, Dundrum, Jobstown and Dun Laoghaire.

Aside from providing food to those most in need, Crosscare last year also

accommodated more than 125 families in their residential services in the City Centre and in Dun Laoghaire, and worked with more than 4,100 young people through youth work services.

For more information on the work of Crosscare, visit www.crosscare.ie.

‘Families are the heart of the life and mission of the Church.’ – Irish Inter-Church Meeting in Dromantine

The 28th Irish Inter–Church Meeting (IICM) took place last week on 23 and 24 November at the Dromantine Conference and Retreat Centre, Newry in the diocese of Dromore. The theme of the 2017 meeting was ‘Proclaiming Christ to Families Today’.

During the meeting representatives of 15 different Christian churches came together to reflect on how to engage with families as partners in the life and mission of the Church, and how Church communities can reach families facing difficulties and in need of care and support.

Guest speakers during the meeting included Father Timothy Bartlett, General Secretary of the World Meeting of Families; which will take place in August 2018 in Dublin; Caroline Bradley, Director of Care for the Family; Professor Gordon Harold, Professor of Child and Adolescent Mental Health; Noeline Blackwell, CEO of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre; and Father Peter McVerry SJ, of the Peter McVerry Trust.

In their statement following the meeting, Co-Chairs of the IICM, Bishop Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick, and Church of Ireland Bishop John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher, said that, 'Families are the heart of the life and mission of the Church. The World Meeting of Families, which will be hosted by the Catholic Church in Ireland in 2018, provides a significant opportunity for us, as Christian churches in Ireland, to reflect together about how best to respond to the many and varied needs of families across the island of Ireland today. This year's Irish Inter-Church Meeting combined many different layers of reflection, drawing inspiration from different academic disciplines and different areas of work. It was a dialogue, not just between churches, but between churches and the wider society. We are deeply



indebted to all who gave the time to share their expertise and experience.'

They continued, 'There was a strong focus throughout the meeting on our communications, both internal and external. We were encouraged by successive speakers to think about the ways in which families experiencing difficulties are prevented from getting the help they need because of stigma and shame. As Christians who believe in a God of compassion, we are well placed to provide a safe space for those who are struggling. We should not underestimate the value of simple gestures of compassion, kindness and acceptance.'

‘At the same time, it is important to remember that for some people the family is not a safe place. We heard from those working on the frontline about the impact of physical, emotional and sexual abuse in the family and its devastating consequences. Churches can contribute to reducing this harm by communicating a strong message that the family needs to respect the human dignity of every individual member, and protect them from harm. People at risk need to know that the church community is there to support them.’

The bishops concluded, ‘In the family we learn the values that shape and inform our approach to living in society. It is where we develop our sense of solidarity and interconnectedness with the well-being of others. Where families are under pressure, parents struggle to find the time to invest in their children’s education and faith formation. New technology and social media, while bringing many benefits, can also be a significant obstacle to families spending quality time together, listening to each other and developing strong relationships.

‘Delegates came away from this meeting feeling both challenged and inspired. The family is the hope for the world and the well-being of families is critical for the future of Church and society.

Churches and faith-based organisations are having a positive impact on the lives of families, but much more needs to be done to reduce the factors that leave families marginalised and at risk of harm. This requires us to work effectively together as churches, and in partnership with other sectors of society, to ensure that a positive vision for the family shapes and informs public policy.' The full statement can be found on www.irishchurches.org.

The IICM is the formal meeting between the Irish Episcopal Conference and the Irish Council of Churches. It gathers senior church leaders and lay representatives from across 15 denominations in Ireland, bringing together the broad spectrum of Roman Catholic, Reformed, Migrant-led, Independent and Orthodox traditions. For more information, please see www.irishchurches.org.

First RTÉ Mass using new Irish translation of the Roman Missal to be broadcast live tomorrow, Sunday

This Sunday 3 December, the First Sunday of Advent, Bishop Brendan Kelly, Bishop of



Achonry, will celebrate a special Mass from RTÉ studios to mark the launch of the new altar edition of *An Leabhar Aifrin Rómhánach*, the Irish language translation of the *Roman Missal*. The Mass will be broadcast live on RTÉ One television and radio at 11.00am.

Participating at the Mass will be members of *An Coiste Comhairleach um an Liotúirge i nGaeilge*, *An Coiste Sapienti* and representatives of the Bishops' Conference, the National Centre of Liturgy and Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth. Also joining on the day will be parishioners of Swords Parish in the Archdiocese of Dublin where the Eucharist is celebrated on Sundays in

Irish at Draighneán, Kinsealy and Altar Server, Tom Long, from Dunboyne Parish in the Diocese of Meath.

Music during the celebration will come from a range of Irish composers for the liturgy, including Seán Ó Riada, Father Liam Lawton, Father Pat Ahern, Tomás Ó Canainn, Ronan McDonagh, Moira Bergin and Máire Ní Dhuibhir.

Welcoming the new translation, Bishop Kelly said, “This is a unique publication, and is hugely significant not only for the Church in Ireland, but for all who care for our culture and heritage, and particularly, our Irish language. It is my hope that this new edition of *An Leabhar Aifrin Rómhánach* will serve those who celebrate the liturgy in Irish, and that it may help to strengthen our Irish language as a living language of prayer both in the Gaeltacht and across Ireland. This new edition of *An Leabhar Aifrin Rómhánach* is a testament to what can be achieved through continuous collaboration.”

An Leabhar Aifrin Rómhánach is the liturgical book which contains all the rubrics and prayers for the celebration of the Eucharist in Irish. The finished Irish translation is the fruit of a huge collaboration between linguists, theologians and native Irish speakers that began 14 years ago in

2003. Professor Cathal Ó Háinle, Professor and Fellow emeritus of Trinity College, Dublin, provided a substantial part of the primary translation for discussion and analysis by *An Coiste Comhairleach um an Liotúirge i nGaeilge* – a committee chaired until 2011 by the late Monsignor Pádraig Ó Fiannachta. Between 2011 and 2014, *An Coiste Sapienti* reviewed the translation. That committee was chaired by Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam. Since 2014 Colette Dower of Veritas Publications has been working with a team of editors in order to typeset the text. The music editor of *An Leabhar Aifrin Rómhánach* is Dr Ite O’ Donovan. 800 copies were published by Veritas Publications and 685 have been sold to date. For more information on *An Leabhar Aifrin Rómhánach*, see www.liturgy-ireland.ie.

The Christmas Day Service on RTÉ One will be led by the Revd Alastair Graham, Rector of Mullingar, and feature a choir and congregation from the Mullingar Union of Parishes. The programme will be broadcast at 11.25am.

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Organ dedicated at St Mary's Church, Passage West, Co Cork

On Sunday 26 November 2017, at Evensong in St Mary's Church, Marmullane (Passage West, Co Cork) the Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton, was in the parish to bless the recently installed organ.

The service on Sunday was the culmination of many months' work, as well as a reflection of the generous financial support by many parishioners past and present. At the start of the service, the clergy processed through a silent church to the organ. After the blessing of the organ by the Bishop, the organ builder Padraig O'Donovan, played the organ prelude, 'La Rejouissance' from Music for the Royal Fireworks by Handel. In his sermon, the Bishop reminded the congregation that the parishioners, in undertaking this project, had 'done something beautiful for God'.

The theme of beauty in worship was reflected in several of the hymns. The opening hymn, 'Angel voices, ever singing', reminds us that 'craftsman's art and music's measure, for thy pleasure all combine'. The canticle, Laudate Dominum, was sung as the hymn 'O praise ye the Lord!'. Verse three contains the line, 'loud



Choir, organists and clergy join the Bishop at the organ after the Service in Marmullane.

organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone'. Former organist, Dermot Locke accompanied the chanted psalm and canticles, while current organist Roger Ellis accompanied the hymns and the choir anthem, 'Sing of the Lord's goodness' by contemporary hymn writer Ernest Sands. Speaking about this new Speechley organ, which is the only one in Ireland, the rector,

Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson said:
This instrument was designed with the accompaniment of congregational singing in

mind. Its range of stops provides variety to the organist, so that it can give a strong lead when required, while at the same time also being capable of sensitive accompaniment for a soloist and quiet music during reflective times within the liturgy. It is an ideal organ for a church of this size. The parishioners and benefactors are to be congratulated for their commitment to ensure that live organ music of a high standard will be heard in Marmullane into the future.

After the service the organist Roger Ellis said: The rededication service for this wonderful church organ was magnificent. The combined choir from the parish sang with such vibrancy.

Given the theme of the Kingship of Christ, the service ended on a high note with the hymn 'In the name of Jesus' sung at an enthusiastic pace to the lively tune Camberwell.

The organ replaced an older organ which had been installed in the 1880s by the Cork organ builder T.W. Magahy & Sons.

Unfortunately, the instrument had deteriorated over the years, making it virtually unplayable and forcing organists to use the three or four remaining stops that still worked.

The parish faced a dilemma. This organ's life was near an end and it was riddled with woodworm. It would have been uneconomic to restore it and so the decision was taken to replace it, not with an electronic keyboard, but with a pipe organ appropriate to the size of the church building.

In November 2015, a replacement organ made by Henry Speechley & Sons of London, was sourced and generously donated to Marmullane. Since 1900 it had been used in Romsey Methodist Church near Southampton. It was in very good repair, having been restored some thirty years ago. The church decided that they no longer required it and wished to remove it with the intention of exporting it to Italy. However, in the end that plan fell through, and it came to Cork.

An enthusiastic group of parishioners got behind this project, firstly dismantling and removing the old Magahy organ over several days. This was done under the supervision and guidance of local organ builder, Pádraig O'Donovan. Later some volunteers provided practical assistance to Pádraig when the Speechley organ was being installed.

Christ Church Bray invites you to walk in a Winter Wonderland this Week

The spirit of Advent and Christmas has already taken hold in Bray with the launch of Walking in a Winter Wonderland, a Christmas Tree Festival in Christ Church, Bray. The festival reflects the local community and the church has been filled with over 50 Christmas trees which have been decorated by schools, community groups and businesses. The themes focus on hymns and carols of Advent and Christmas.

The festival was launched last night (Thursday November 30) with a wonderful 'Sing a Song of Christmas' songs of praise service, compared by former Archdeacon of Dublin, the Ven Gordon Linney and sung by the Parish Choirs. It continues daily until Thursday December 7 from 10am until 9pm.

Rector of Christ Church, Bray, the Revd Baden Stanley, said the festival aims to encourage and inspire visitors as they step aside from their busy lives at this time of year. He said the trees remind people of the themes of Advent and Christmas as well as the stories of those who designed them.



Archdeacon Gordon Linney, the Revd Martin O'Kelly and the Revd Baden Stanley at the opening night of Walking in a Winter Wonderland in Christ Church Bray.

“Advent is very much a time of preparation. We look forward to the celebration of Christmas, but we do so conscious that for so many people these coming weeks are difficult and even dangerous. Our Christmas story reminds us that Jesus himself was both homeless and a refugee, that his arrival among us was the greatest expression of unconditional love in the history of humanity,” he said.

Entrance to Walking in a Winter Wonderland is free but donations are invited towards costs. On Sunday December 3 the parish's now famous Classics by Candlelight returns starting at 7pm. Tickets for the Classics concert are €10 and are available from Parish Office, Fleuritique and The Travel Boutique. A cafe and craft shop open daily throughout the festival.

Ground-breaking eldership book sells 10,000 copies

A ground-breaking book on eldership described as a "blessing" to the Church of Scotland has sold more than 10,000 copies.

The publication, which is part of the [Learn series](#) and created by the Kirk's Mission and Discipleship Council, has proven a vital guide for individuals and groups preparing to serve as elders.

Many continue to use [Learn: Eldership](#) after they have been ordained, as part of ongoing learning and development for their role.

Jamie Milliken, minister of Portland Parish Church in Troon, and vice-convener of the Mission and Discipleship Council, said:



"Learn: Eldership is a blessing to the Church.

"The blessing comes alive in the local community when our elders engage with the publication and put it into practice through inspired leadership and active discipleship.

"When that level of engagement comes then we will truly have 10,000 reasons to bless God and celebrate."

Lynne McEwen, an elder in West Lothian Presbytery, spoke of the usefulness of Eldership, which was launched three years ago.

"Many of the Kirk Sessions in our Presbytery have been working through Learn: Eldership and

have constantly praised it as a valuable resource both for information and discussion," she said.

Rev Norman Smith, Convener of Mission and Discipleship, said:

"Mission and Discipleship produce resources that are designed to help people live out their Christian calling.

"With such a good take up Learn Eldership has shown it is doing just that.

"We are delighted that people from across the denomination and beyond have found this book to be helpful.

"We hope and pray it will continue to be so in the coming years."

The Church of Scotland has around 30,000 elders based across Scotland, and abroad.

Other titles in the *Learn* series, which aims to provide guidance on subjects relating to faith, include: *Exploring Faith*, *How Will Our Children Have Faith?*, and *Tomorrow's Calling*.

The fifth book in the series, [*Understanding Our Faith*](#) was published in November and is designed to help readers to think "in more depth and in more detail about their Christian faith."

Another edition, *Children and Young People*, will be published in early December and looks at how faith can be passed on to the next generation.

To find out more about the other *Learn* publications, conferences and [online learning resources](#), please visit [Learn Online](#).

First Persian woman to be ordained bishop consecrated in Canterbury Cathedral

The first Persian woman to become a bishop was consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury on Thursday morning (Nov 30) during a service in Canterbury Cathedral. Guli Francis-Dehqani, the daughter of the former Bishop of Iran, Hassan Dehqani-Tafti, will serve as the first suffragan Bishop of Loughborough in the Church of England's Diocese of Leicester.

Her family were forced into Exile after a botched assassination attempt on her father – who was also the first President Bishop of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Her mother was



The first Bishop of Loughborough, Guli Francis-Deqhani with the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, and the Bishop of Leicester Martyn Snow, outside Canterbury Cathedral.

injured in that attack. Guli's brother, Bahram, stayed behind in Iran. He was murdered in 1980 and is commemorated in Canterbury Cathedral's Chapel of Saints and Martyrs.

Today's service reflected the new bishop's early life in Iran. Bishop Iraj Mottahedeh, who succeeded Bishop Hassan Dehqani-Tafti as Bishop of Iran, gave the sermon. Bishop Iraj is now retired and lives in England. For 15 years, Bishop Iraj was the only Christian priest in Iran.

Bishop Guli's eldest son Gabriel, playing cello, joined musicians from King's School, Canterbury, to perform Variations on Bahram's Melody. The original music had been composed by Gabriel's uncle Bahram for a Persian hymn written by Bahram and Guli's father.

The choir also sang music composed by Gabriel and set to a Persian poem and words from St John's Gospel. Bishop Guli's other children, Simeon and Eleanor, helped Gabriel carry the offertory gifts to the Archbishop.

Bishop Guli will play a full role in the work of the Church across Leicestershire, working alongside the Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow. She will also have a specific brief to oversee and support the vocations of those called to ordained ministry; and to encourage Christians from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds as the diocese "strives for modern society to be better reflected in its congregations".

After her consecration, Bishop Guli left the cathedral carrying the crozier first used by her father in the Diocese of Iran and the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Tomorrow, Sunday (2 December) Guli will be welcomed to her new diocese during a service in Leicester Cathedral.



During the Primates' Meeting in October, Anglican archbishops were given a candle-lit tour of Canterbury Cathedral; which concluded in the Chapel of Saints and Martyrs. After hearing about Bishop Guli's impending consecration, and the commemoration of her brother in the chapel and the cathedral's Book of Saints and Martyrs, the primates left their candles burning on the chapel steps.

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