



The Holy Family at the heart of new double issue of Intercom

The Christmas double issue of *Intercom*, a Catholic pastoral and liturgical resource magazine, is now available. On the cover of the new issue is an image of the Holy Family taken from Saint Finbarr and Holy Angels Church, Inchigeela, in Cork, designed by Abbey Stained Glass Studios.

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NEWS December 8

The Holy Family is the central image of the new double issue, which covers both December and January. In the issue, author Francis Hogan offers a meditation on the Holy Family and the Birth of Christ, and editor Father Chris Hayden asks if Christmas might be our 'humanist' celebration.

Also, in preparation for next year's World Meeting of Families, *Intercom* welcomes mother Clare Cromie-O'Toole who writes on family as 'a model for peace in the world', and offers a Family Liturgy to welcome the New Year.

The new issue also features an interview with Sister Stanislaus Kennedy, founder of Focus Ireland, on her life and the ongoing housing crisis in Ireland. In her interview, Sister Stan says of the Holy Family, 'It is so pertinent that this woman with a child and a father don't get a place to stay on Christmas night. It is so relevant today. If we listen, it speaks to us all. It is happening every day. These people are Jesus coming today and not having a place to stay.'

Other features in the new issue highlight the Advent and Christmas seasons, and look ahead to the New Year, with articles on Catholic Culture at Christmas by Father Paul Murphy, and a

reflection for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity by Reverend Roy Cooper, former President of the Methodist Church of Ireland, along with all the usual *Intercom* resources for December and January.

Intercom magazine is a Catholic pastoral and liturgical resource of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference published by Veritas Group.

Intercom is published ten times per year, including double issues for both July-August and December-January.

Many of the resources from *Intercom* are made available free on their website. These resources, along with information on subscribing to the magazine can be found on www.intercommagazine.ie.

Theological Institute's annual Advent Carol Service

Ordinands, staff and friends of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute gathered in Kill O' the Grange Church on Wednesday evening (December 6) for their annual Advent Carol Service. Archbishop Michael Jackson presided at the service which was led by the Revd Alan Breen, Rector of Kill O' the Grange.

Readings were given by staff and ordinands of CITI including the institute's director, Canon Dr Maurice Elliott, as well as lay reader, Derek Singleton. A retiring collection was taken up for Dublin Central Mission.

Bishops call for increased efforts to counter homelessness

Bishops have called for increased efforts to counter homelessness at their Winter General Meeting which concluded on Wednesday 6 December in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Bishops said, 'The most visible manifestation of the homeless crisis – rough sleeping – has seen a marked increase over this winter. According to the Peter McVerry Trust, eight people have died sleeping rough in the last 12 weeks. This is a collective failure of our society to protect the most vulnerable amongst us.

'In Ireland, 8,300 people are using emergency homeless accommodation, including over 3,000 children and more than 1,400 families. This figure does not include those who are sleeping rough, those who are homeless but who are "sofa surfing", or those who are involuntarily



living with friends or relatives as no alternative accommodation is available to them. The average rent in the Republic has risen by 61% since late 2011. Tens of thousands of people are living with mortgages in arrears and consequently are at risk of losing their home. Energy poverty affects more than 600,000 people across Ireland. These statistics represent individual stories of hardship endured by our sisters and brothers.

‘Bishops ask all people in society, and in particular our policymakers, to recommit themselves to building a society that values human beings, not least, by working for a society that enables all people to live in a decent

home. Bishops also expressed concern that the recently announced increases in both energy costs and public transport prices will disproportionately affect the poor, the marginalised and the elderly in our society. Bishops agreed that the implementation of these price increases in the run up to Christmas is particularly harsh.'

They continued, 'The Church teaches that each person, regardless of his or her economic or social position, racial or faith background, must be treated with full dignity (cf. Gal 3:28). It is an indignity to accept a version of Irish society in which a family lives in an overcrowded B&B, hostel or hotel room; a person sleeps in a wet shopfront in a city centre; or an older couple survive without the means to heat their home. Therefore, each of us has an option, to respect the dignity of all in our society through our actions or to choose to ignore this suffering. This is the choice that faces all of us in today's Ireland which is approaching full employment. Homelessness, poor housing conditions and energy poverty are largely symptoms of political and economic choices. Something is structurally wrong with a society which allows such a negation of human dignity.'

Bishops expressed their support 'to those organisations which every day live out the

mission of the Gospel in practical terms. Organisations such as Crosscare, the Peter McVerry Trust, Threshold, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Merchants Quay Ireland and the Capuchin Day Centre, Focus Ireland, Simon and the Salvation Army express solidarity with the marginalised and this can mean the difference between human life and death.'

They reiterated their support for the amending of the *Constitution of Ireland* to include an explicit right to housing, observing that such a provision 'would make an important contribution to the legal and policy frameworks required to address the inadequacies of the current system.'

Bishops offered prayers for those who are suffering amidst this housing crisis so that, as a society, we can "find Jesus in the faces of others, in their voices, in their pleas" (*Evangelii Gaudium* 91).'

New Rector from Belfast to Cobh via Westminster

The Reverend Paul Arbuthnot has been appointed as Incumbent of Cobh and Glanmire Union of Parishes in the Diocese.



The Reverend Paul Arbuthnot was born in Northern Ireland in 1981, attended Downshire School, Carrickfergus and Belfast Royal Academy. He was a chorister and later a lay clerk in Belfast Cathedral Choir.

He studied history at Trinity College Dublin where he was awarded first a Bachelor in Arts degree, followed by a Master in Arts and a Master in Letters (M.Litt.). He was awarded his Bachelor in Theology degree in 2010 and was ordained deacon that year and priest the following year. During his time at TCD he was a lay vicar and choral scholar at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and also worked at the National Concert Hall.

His first curacy was in the parish of St Paul, Glenageary in Dublin (2010 to 2012). From 2012 to 2015 he was Minor Canon and Precentor at St Albans Cathedral, St Albans in England, and from 2015 until February this year he was Minor Canon and Sacrist at Westminster Abbey. Since then he has been working with the Salvation Army as Events and Marketing Manager at Oxford Street in London.

He now wishes to return to parochial ministry, and to Ireland, and will take up this, his first incumbency, early in 2018. As well as music, reading, current affairs and travel, Paul is an avid Northern Ireland football supporter, and a season ticket holder at Leyton Orient. Perhaps Cork City FC will have a new fan!

Photographer revisits Auschwitz for exhibition

An exhibition by a Co Down man that reveals the unspeakable cruelty of the Nazi death camps will open in the New Year.

Named Auschwitz... Recaptured, his 44 black and white photos will be exhibited in January.



Self-taught Mr Campbell (37), who works in retail in Crawfordsburn, took the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau while on a holiday in Krakow in September to capture the horror of what had once gone on there.

"I had read all about Auschwitz in history at school and all about the Second World War," he said.

"I deliberately shot the pictures away from me as if I was the eyes of one of those captive; I wanted to show the things they could see and try to betray what they might be thinking.

"There were people everywhere and I wanted to show the irony and contrast of how tourists were queueing to get into Block 11, which was synonymous with torture and death, yet years ago many thousands queued there too but they were not there through choice."

The exhibition of Auschwitz... Recaptured will open on January 9 at 7pm and runs until February 4.

Controversial 'missionary' bishop defends ordination service

The breakaway Anglican movement set up in protest of the Church of England amid concerns the Church is wrongly moving in a more liberal direction, will hold its first ordinations on Thursday.

The controversial 'missionary' bishop Andy Lines will lead the service which will see nine men become priests and deacons within the Anglican Mission in England (AMiE).

Bishop Andy told Premier News their aim isn't to split the global Anglican family.



Andy Lines

He said: "Our supreme desire is mission and we share that with many churches within the structures of the Church of England.

"I, with my other hat of GAFCON UK, recognise that the majority of our brothers and sisters are still within the structures and we would like as AMiE to work alongside them.

"But the need is in this country for many more local churches to proclaim Christ."

GAFCON, a worldwide group of conservative Anglicans, **consecrated Bishop Andy as missionary bishop** to Europe in June.

His responsibility was to cater for traditional Anglicans in Scotland, England and across Europe that disagreed with the Scottish

Episcopal Church's decision to allow gay weddings.

Earlier this year, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev Justin Welby **rebuked GAFCON for appointing Bishop Andy.**

He said there was no need for a missionary bishop because worshippers could already express a range of views.

Rev McMunn told Premier that it would be "outrageous" if any Church of England member wasn't able to support AMiE's mission.

He said: "It would only be problematic to them if the Church of England thought it was a bad idea for them to be supporting other people advancing the gospel.

"So that would be a decision by the Church of England to make it problematic for them, which would be slightly outrageous."

Rev McMunn insisted that AMiE is "centred on the bible and wants to see the gospel proclaimed" so it would be wrong for Church of England clergy to "hinder others who are seeking to support those who are wanting to plant Anglican churches in England".

He went on to say: "It would seem much more sensible for the Church of England to be supportive of what we are doing because of the great need in England to see the gospel spread and the number of churches that need to be planted."

The service will be held at East London Tabernacle Church in Mile End will be an open service and will be streamed live on the AMiE Facebook page.

Ex- C of E bishop jailed for abuse wants to join Catholic Church for 'anonymity'

A disgraced former Church of England bishop who was jailed for sexual abuse, and his twin brother, want to switch faiths so they can "live and worship in anonymity".

Peter Ball, the former Bishop of Lewes and Gloucester who boasted of links to royalty, has asked to join the Roman Catholic Diocese of Clifton, in Bristol, a spokesman for the Church confirmed.



His identical twin brother, the former bishop of Truro Michael Ball, also sent an email - seen by Press Association - to friends telling them of the idea.

Peter Ball, now 85, was jailed for 32 months in October 2015 for offences dating back to the 1970s against 18 young men at his home in East Sussex.

The email sent on Wednesday morning said the pair would not be sending Christmas cards after recent events had "totally wearied and reduced" them.

In it, Michael Ball said: "Peter and Michael will not be sending Christmas Cards this year. "The events of the last years and rightly or wrongly the battering by the Church have totally wearied and reduced us.

"We will probably [sic] be joining the Roman Catholic Church soon.

"We love The Church of England but would like to end our days in a church where we can live and worship in anonymity and without constant fear.

"We send our love and are enormously grateful for [sic] the kindness and continued support of so many.

"We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a joyful New Year."

The message was mistakenly sent to a BBC journalist and subsequently shown to Peter Saunders, the child abuse campaigner who founded support charity NAPAC.

Speaking to Press Association on Wednesday evening Mr Saunders, who sits on the Vatican's commission on protecting children from abuse, said: "It's not surprising they are moving to another church.

"If the Catholic hierarchy welcome him [Peter Ball] I hope they put in place every possible safeguard so that people know something about

his background and he can never, ever pose a threat to children or young people again."

He said Michael Ball's complaint of taking a "battering" from the Church was "flippant" and it was "disgusting" the pair were acting as though they were the victims.

A spokesman for the Roman Catholic diocese of Arundel and Brighton said: "We confirm Peter Ball has been in contact with the Roman Catholic diocese of Clifton, in which diocese he now lives, expressing an interest in becoming a member of the Catholic Church.

"This matter is subject to discussions between Clifton diocese and the statutory authorities, who are the lead with regards to Peter Ball's risk management in the community.

"The Church of England authorities including their safeguarding team are aware of this request."

Michael Ball reportedly told the BBC a move to the Catholic Church was a "possibility". Peter Ball's sentence came 22 years after the abuse first surfaced. He eventually admitted misconduct in a public office and two counts of indecent assault.

The court heard how Ball had convinced some of his victims to strip naked to pray and even suggested they submit to beatings between 1977 and 1992.

The first of his victims to come forward took his own life in 2012 after hearing Sussex Police had reopened the case.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey resigned as honorary assistant bishop in the Diocese of Oxford after the public inquiry into child sex abuse last year heard he delayed a "proper investigation" into Ball's crimes for two decades by failing to pass information to police. A review of how Ball's case was handled found he used his connections to boost his position and was said to be a confidant of the Prince of Wales.

An independent review entitled an Abuse of Faith, led by Dame Moira Gibb, said he "betrayed his Church" and its followers.

The report added: "The Church at its most senior levels and over many years supported him unwisely and displayed little care for his victims."

Ball was released from jail in February after serving half his sentence behind bars.

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