



Climate change focus of Dollingstown church's 'Show the Love' event

Members of St. Saviour's Church Dollingstown in Magheralin Parish decided to 'Show the Love' on Sunday 11 February, just before Valentine's Day, to raise awareness about how things we love might be affected by climate change.

Whether it's coffee, the Causeway coast, sea turtles, our grandchildren or the people of Kenya, we all love someone or something which will be affected by climate change.

The changing climate is already taking a toll on vulnerable communities around the world causing, for example, drought and food shortages in East Africa and more extreme flooding and cyclones in Bangladesh.

The 'Show the Love' campaign is organised by Christian Aid along with over 100 other organisations as part of The Climate Coalition. They call on individuals, schools, churches, clubs and societies across Ireland and the UK to 'Show the Love' for everything that is threatened by climate change.

For more details search social media for #ShowTheLove and visit showthelove.org.uk to see a beautiful animation.

14 charities benefit from Dublin Black Santa Sit Out

A total of €36,500 was handed out to local charities at a special service in St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, last Sunday (February 11). The



Representatives of the charities who benefited from the 2017 Black Santa Appeal at St Ann's Church, Dawson Street.

money was the proceeds of the 2017 Black Santa Sit Out which took place in the run up to Christmas and the speaker at the service, Alice Leahy of the Alice Leahy Trust, paid tribute to all who help out and contribute to the annual appeal which has become a feature of the capital city.

The charities that benefited this year are: the Solas Project, Protestant Aid, the Dublin & Glendalough Refugee Project, Alice Leahy Trust, the Society of St Vincent de Paul, the Peter McVerry Trust, the Salvation Army, Dublin Simon, the Samaritans, Discovery Gospel Choir, Focus Ireland, the Laura Lynn Foundation, Here2Help and PACT.

During the service Alice Leahy thanked all who contributed to the appeal and all who strive to make the world, and in particular Dublin, a better place. She spoke of the work of her organisation which is not grant aided and is funded by unsolicited, voluntary donations. No money is spent on PR or fundraising.

Geoff Scargill of Protestant Aid thanked the Vicar of St Ann's, Canon David Gillespie, Fred and all at St Ann's on behalf of the charities who benefited. Their effort changed the lives of many, he said.

2017 marked the 17th year that the Black Santa Sit Out has taken place outside St Ann's in the days before Christmas. During that time the appeal has raised well over €500,000 for charities. There are no administration charges and the collectors and choirs that join the sit out all give their time free of charge.

Special video message for the World Day of the Sick from Archbishop Eamon Martin

Archbishop Eamon Martin has published a special video message for the World Day of the Sick, which was celebrated on Sunday 11 February on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. In his message, Archbishop Eamon expressed particular appreciation to our doctors, nurses and carers 'who dedicate their lives to the ministry of healing and protecting life'.

In his message, the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland said, 'In my work as a priest I have seen surgeons, doctors and nurses fighting to save life, even at its most fragile. They bring their gifts and expertise without discrimination, conscious that they are not treating, say, a cancerous growth, or a dangerous virus. They are caring for a sick human being, a person with a story, family and loved ones, a living human being with potential.

'I'm thinking today about those who dedicate their lives to the ministry of healing and protecting life. Even though they are often under great stress and working long, tiring hours, our

hospital staff, GPs and other carers are our ambassadors for life!’

‘I think of Jesus who devoted so much of his time to reaching out to the sick, and suffering, without distinction, so that they could have life to the full!’...

Archbishop Eamon concluded, ‘You may have a carer, nurse or doctor in your family or as a friend. Pray for them today, find an opportunity to thank them and encourage them in their vital, life-giving work. But, in addition to this, be a missionary for life yourself. Speak and act now to ensure that those who have chosen to devote their lives to healing the sick will be spared the grim tasks surrounding abortion.

‘Every life is beautiful, precious and sacred. Choose Life.’

Certificate in Christian Studies from St Patrick’s, Maynooth launched in Cork C of I diocese

For many years, in Cork, Cloyne and Ross, ‘The Bishop’s Course in Theology’ met the needs of a large number of adults learners in the Diocese.

Now, following a lull in the delivery of that course, and as a response to both the Bishop's Visitation of the Diocese in 2016, and the on-going programme *Charting a Future with Confidence* a new opportunity has been launched for adult learners in Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

A group of people, many of them involved in delivery of 'The Bishop's Course' have been working with the Bishop, Dr Paul Colton, since early 2017. On Tuesday last, the Bishop published the details of the new course which will be the *Certificate in Christian Studies* from St Patrick's College, Maynooth, delivered locally in Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

Bishop Colton said: 'Learning, including learning about the faith, is a lifelong process. There is great interest in and demand for a course like this. I am most grateful to my colleague, Bishop Michael Burrows, in Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, and also the Very Reverend Tom Gordon, Dean of Leighlin, for pioneering and developing this course in that Diocese. It has been very popular and transformative there, and I am thrilled that, through their good offices, with the approval and support of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, we can now offer the same course here.'

The *Certificate in Christian Studies* is a level 7 certificate course of St Patrick's College, Maynooth. It is a part-time course for all who wish to explore the Christian faith. The programme provides a structured introduction to: scripture, theology, church history, ethics, liturgy, and ministry.

The centre (but not exclusively) for the local delivery of the course in Cork, Cloyne and Ross will be Northridge House Education and Research Centre of Saint Luke's Charity, Cork. The formal launch and first module of the course will be on Saturday, 28th April. The deadline for completed applications for the course is Wednesday, 21st March 2018. Full details are available from parishes, chaplaincies and the Diocesan Office.

Book published on Generous Love in Multi-faith Ireland

A new book published by Church of Ireland Publishing (CIP) and the eighth in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute's 'Braemor Studies' series is to be launched by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, on Wednesday 14th March at 6.00pm at CITI. The new title is written by the Revd Suzanne Cousins

and is entitled *Generous Love in Multi-faith Ireland: Towards mature citizenship and a positive pedagogy for the Church of Ireland in local Christian-Muslim mission and engagement*. In keeping with the inter-faith theme of her book, an invitation was extended to Shaykh Dr Umar Al-Qadri, the Head-Imam of Al-Mustafa Islamic Education & Cultural Centre Ireland, to attend the launch, which he has graciously accepted.

In the words of the author, ‘the aim behind the book was to identify hindrances to Christian-Muslim engagement in Church of Ireland parishes and dioceses, with a view to stimulating the future development of a contextualised teaching resource on Christian-Muslim engagement for use by clergy and laity in the Church’s changing mission context. The envisioned pedagogy is a practical, Bible-based resource, in which all members of the Church can be confident, enabling the Church to have a positive praxis of intentional presence, generous engagement, witness and service towards its Muslim neighbours.’

Generous Love in Multi-faith Ireland will be available for sale at the launch and thereafter through the Church of Ireland’s online bookstore at <https://store.ireland.anglican.org/store/>

[product/142/generous-love-in-multifaith-ireland](#) and through the Book Well in Belfast for €6/£5.

RSCM one day course for Young Musicians

RSCM Ireland is holding a one-day church music workshop aimed at 18-25 year olds. Led by RSCM Ireland committee members. The workshop will cover singing techniques, repertoire, conducting, motivating choirs and the church's year.

Where: Dublin: Saint Bartholows Church, Clyde Road, Dublin 4. [Google Map](#) Total cost: €15. Please book your place using the link [here](#).

Please note that all attendees must be over 18, unless accompanied at all times by a supervising adult. For further details, please contact Thérèse Gaughan (secretary@rscmireland.com) on +353 (0)87 762 4380.

Three events in Clogher

Many thought Fr Brian's departure signalled the end of the annual major spiritual event which attracts thousands from all over Ireland. But the

new Rector of the Graan ... Former Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, Trevor Williams will speak on Wednesday, March 7th <http://fermanaghherald.com/2018/02/graan-hosts-first-novena-since-fr-brians-departure/>

A St Patrick's Night gathering will take place on Saturday, 17th March, from 7pm at the Fountain Centre, Kesh, with the movie *The Quiet Man* and easy listening live Irish music. There will be plenty of space to relax and chill out for all the family. The centre is part of Magheraculmoney Parish in Clogher Diocese.

The One Way Team from Lincolnshire will be visiting Bovevagh Parish Centre on Saturday, 3rd March, for a training day between 10am and 4.30pm. The day will cover basic and advanced puppetry and choreography, Gospel illusions, solo puppetry, story telling, team leadership, and creating unique puppet characters. All are welcome and bookings can be made online at www.onewayuk.com or by telephone: 01472 241 068.

Pre-school children may face admissions interview in Irish

Four-year-old children could face interviews to test their ability to speak Irish under new measures to prioritise admission for children from Irish-speaking families to Gaelscoileanna - Irish Times report

The move is being considered in an amendment to new school admissions legislation which is due to go before the [Oireachtas](#) shortly, according to sources.

The [School Admissions Bill](#), as currently drafted, seeks to ensure fair access to schools by prohibiting mandatory interviews and testing of parents as conditions for admission to schools.

However, the established practice of many Gaelscoileanna has been to prioritise access for children from Irish-speaking families through interviews with their parents.

Ceasefire imperative for Syrians as women are forced to give birth underground

Conditions near the Syrian capital are so desperate that women are giving birth underground and people who venture out in the daytime risk injury or death from the relentless bombing, Christian Aid is warning.

The onslaught against people, schools and hospitals in the besieged Eastern Ghouta area of rural Damascus is so overwhelming that those still alive have retreated to cellars and basements without water or electricity.

“Conditions for people trapped in Eastern Ghouta amount to a living hell,” said Christian Aid’s Máiréad Collins.

“People, many displaced from elsewhere in Syria, are forced to find shelter in basements without proper access to electricity or water. Local NGOs’ attempts to deliver humanitarian support are dangerous and severely limited.

“An immediate ceasefire is absolutely imperative, for the 400,000 children, old people, women and men still caught in Eastern Ghouta.”

Christian Aid’s local partner organisation runs a food kitchen in Eastern Ghouta. As things stand, they will have to run the kitchen at night and distribute meals before 6am, when the shelling begins.

Indiscriminate shelling of East Ghouta has intensified dramatically, [according to the United Nations](#), which warned that “the international crimes of indiscriminate bombardment and

deliberate starvation of the civilian population” are happening in Syria.

Reports of at least 200 people killed in just 72 hours last week in Eastern Ghouta stand as a reminder that Syria is not yet somewhere to which refugees can safely return.

Christian Aid is supporting the United Nations’ call for an immediate ceasefire and for medical evacuations and humanitarian work to be allowed to proceed.

[Video: Bombing last week in Eastern Ghouta, Syria, filmed by Syria Relief: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnk8q3sn4Wc&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnk8q3sn4Wc&feature=youtu.be)

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