

Team Uganda hosts 'Big Breakfast' at Lisburn Cathedral



The Dean of Connor, the Very Rev Sam Wright (rector of Lisburn Cathedral) pictured with his wife Paula and their son Peter and grandchildren Jonah and Elias tucking into low calorie fry-ups at a 'Big Breakfast' in Lisburn Cathedral on February. Included is the Rev Danielle McCullagh (curate, Lisburn Cathedral).

A team of young adults from Lisburn Cathedral will travel to Uganda during the summer to help

build a toilet block at a school and work with children.



On Saturday February 10, a 'Big Breakfast' was held in Lisburn Cathedral Hall to raise funds to support Team Uganda 2018.

The team of 11 young people will leave for Uganda on Saturday July 21 and will return on Sunday August 5.

They will be working on the construction of a toilet block for a school in the town of Gulu in Northern Uganda and will also partner with the charity Abaana, working with their youth and children.

Welcome home! Brendan Kelly installed as Bishop of Galway

The new Bishop of Galway, Brendan Kelly, was installed on Sunday in the cathedral where he



Bishop Brendan Kelly of Galway (right)

was ordained more than 40 years ago and which he helped build 20 years before that.

In the 1950s, the young Brendan Kelly and his sister Mary cycled around the parish of Craughwell collecting half-crowns, or whatever people could afford, to fund the construction of the Cathedral of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and St Nicholas, he told the congregation in that great building in his first homily as head of the Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora.

After welcoming the many people present, Bishop Kelly said: “I would like first of all to invite us all to become aware, in the silence, of this great structure that surrounds us, this cathedral that is giving us sanctuary this afternoon.

“I invite you to feel the size, the great height, the light and the colour through the beautiful windows, as we listen to the life-giving Word, the uplifting music, aware of the strength and spaciousness, the stark beauty and the safety of this sacred place.

“*Teach Dé agus Teach an Phobail*. House of God and of God’s people. I could never imagine then a day like this, presiding here with so many people at this great banquet of life and joy and welcome.

“God is here. And we are here. Meeting. Cathedral and Church are built so that we can remember who we are and what we are for in this world. And the immense dignity, respect and reverence that is due to every living person, regardless of ability, health, colour, size, nationality, or otherwise. This place exists lest we forget the nobility and dignity, the wonder of human life from its tiniest origins.”

The 71-year-old bishop is the second of nine children born to Sean and Annie Kelly of Ballinakill, and he was ordained a priest by Bishop Brown in Galway cathedral in 1971.

As a priest, he served on the teaching staff of Coláiste Éinde in Galway and Our Lady’s College, Gort, and he also served as a parish

priest in Lisdoonvarna, Co Clare, and in An Spidéal in Connemara.

In 2008 he was consecrated as Bishop of Achonry. His episcopal motto is ‘De réir d’fhocail’, which means ‘According to your word’.

In his homily, Dr Kelly said that one of his priorities as bishop would be prayer. “In a world of too much speed and debilitating stress and pressure, we need to discover prayer anew, all of us, to begin again. And we have no shortage of places thanks to the humbler and more eternal view of the generations that went before us. Places like this cathedral. Built for our restoration and healing.”

Among those present at the installation were the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins, the Mayor of Galway Pearse Flannery and other members of Galway City Council, and many local and national public representatives. A large number of well-wishers from the Diocese of Achonry attended, including a notable number of school principals from that diocese.

There were also well-wishers from other Christian denominations – Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, Methodist, Romanian Orthodox and the Coptic Church – as well as an Imam

from Galway's Muslim community. Bishop Kelly told the religious leaders present: "I look forward to us working together for the welfare of all the people of Galway and the generations who come after us."

Former C of I church to be a community space in Beara

After five years of negotiations the disused Church of Ireland in Castletownbere has been purchased by the local development association, The Southern Star reports.

Chairperson of Castletownbere Development Association, Cian Murphy said they were now looking forward to hearing from the community on how it can be used to best serve the area's needs.

Praising those involved in the project he said: 'The Church of Ireland made it possible. They weren't looking for a lot of money and were happy for the church that it would be preserved. The fact that there was no one buried on the grounds made it a lot more straight forward.'

Weekly bingo at the Beara Coast Hotel was a main fundraiser to facilitate the purchase but an



St Peter's Church which has been bought by the local community association

anonymous donation speeded up the sale greatly.

St. Peter's was built in the heart of Castletownbere in 1841.

The original protestant place of worship was at the now ruined Adrigole Church, and a once thriving Church of Ireland community in Beara owed its origins to the Berehaven Copper Mining Company and the British naval base on Bere Island.

Interestingly some of Beara's most distinguished historical figures are associated with the Church

of Ireland, notably the scholar and collector of music, Cannon James Goodwin of Ardgroom, and probably Beara's most famous son, Standish O'Grady of the Irish Literary Renaissance, whose father was a rector at the church.

After the Second World War, St Peter's lost its rector due to a dwindling congregation.

However, in recent years Canon Paul Willoughby kindly gave the CDA permission to use it for various events including last summer's highly successful Shay Hunstun Photographic exhibition - People of the Wild Atlantic Way – and a Teddy Bears picnic at Easter.

Notably, the churchyard 'is the only green space in town' and is an area which provides a safe place for children to play.

St Peter's is a listed building, which means the CDA will have to work closely in conjunction with builders specialising in such renovation projects as well as its main sponsors the Leader Programme.

However Cian stressed that all involved are committed to doing this right: 'Ideas and costings are coming in at present. We are working closely with the council and we want to do it right'.

Immediately identifiable work includes replacing the roof and bespoke wooden windows.

To date the church benches appear unsalvageable. However, with the help of Castletownbere's SuperValu's Chris and Lorraine Downey a heating system grant has made available through Musgraves and SEAI.

Cian said he doesn't envisage the newly acquired building 'being pigeon holed' for any one purpose.

Instead he sees it 'functioning as a multi-purpose base' for example a venue to hold public events in the town.

A series of meetings will be organised going forward for the people of Castletownbere to discuss the future of the building to which all are encouraged to attend to have their input.

Ease yourself into Lent at Belfast Cathedral

Belfast Cathedral invites you to ease yourself into Lent with a series of reflections on Prayer. Five Fridays in Lent will take place each Friday afternoon from February 2 to March 23, and will explore 'The Form and Art of Prayer'.

The talks will be held in the Chapel of Unity from 4.15pm to 5.15pm, and will be followed by Choral Evensong from 5.30pm until 6pm.

Guest speakers are: Fr Tom Layden SJ, Province Coordinator for Ecumenism, who will reflect on The Ignatian Tradition (February 23); The Rev Cheryl Meban, Chaplain at University of Ulster whose topic is Face to Face (March 2); Padraig Ó Tuama, Leader of the Corrymeela Community on the topic The Collect (March 9); The Rev Canon Mark Niblock, Dean's Vicar, St Anne's Cathedral, speaking on Choral Evensong (March 16) and The Very Rev Gregory Dunstan, Dean of Armagh Cathedral talking about The Jesus Prayer (March 23).

These sessions are hosted by Belfast Cathedral and the Corrymeela Community.

Obit Canon Donald Atkinson

The Church of Ireland Nenagh Union of Parishes was in mourning this Monday following the death of the former canon in Cloughjordan, Rev Donald Atkinson, The Tipperary Star reports.



Canon Donald Atkinson, right, with his wife, Elsie, and Canon Stephen Neill and the Bishop of Killaloe and Limerick, Trevor Williams, at the opening to the extension to Cloughjordan No 1 school

Canon Atkinson died on Sunday, February 11, in the tender care of Kilmainham Wood Nursing Home.

Formerly of Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary, and Dromore Lodge, Rockcorry, Monaghan, Canon Atkinson was dearly loved

husband of Elsie, and cherished father of Mark, Shelley, Lynn and the late Neville; father-in-law of Lynn and Brian; grandfather of Ben, Sophie and Charlotte.

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held in St James' Church, Rockcorry, County Monaghan on Wednesday, February 14, at 2pm, followed by interment in adjoining graveyard.

Pastor's sons killed in Grand Canyon tragedy

Two of the three people who died in a helicopter crash in the Grand Canyon were sons of a pastor in West Sussex.

Reverend David Hill has described his sons Stuart (pictured) and Jason as "always happy" and "incredibly close".

Stuart's girlfriend Becky Dobson was also on holiday with the sons when they were killed in the helicopter crash at 5.20pm local time on Saturday.

The group had gone away to celebrate Stuart Hill's 30th birthday and had saved up for a year for the trip, Mr Hill's father told the Evening Standard.



Rev David Hill said his sons were "incredibly close" and called his family "Team Hill".
"The two brothers loved each other and were very close, and so our misfortune is their support - because they went together, and I will thank God every day for them," said Rev Hill.

Broadwater Baptist Church in Worthing posted online to ask for prayer for both families.

Hong Kong Catholics hold all-night prayer vigil to oppose Vatican deal with Beijing

Catholics in Hong Kong held an all-night prayer vigil to protest a proposed deal between the Vatican and Beijing. More than 200 people gathered in St Bonaventure Church in a residential neighbourhood in the territory to voice their concerns over a deal that critics say would “sell out” faithful Chinese Catholics.

“It’s a precarious situation. There’s a real danger of division,” said one priest at the prayer service told Reuters.

Chinese Catholics are split between those in the “underground” Church who are loyal to the Pope and the government-backed Catholic Patriotic Association, which appoints bishops without Rome’s approval.

Sources say that the proposed deal would allow the Vatican a say in the appointment of Chinese bishops in exchange for recognising ones already appointed by the Chinese government.

The vigil came as a group of Catholics signed an open letter warning of “schism” if the deal goes ahead.

The letter says that the bishops appointed by Beijing “do not have the trust of the faithful, and have never repented publicly. If they were to be recognized as legitimate, the faithful in Greater China would be plunged into confusion and pain, and schism would be created in the Church in China.”

“We are worried that the agreement would not only fail to guarantee the limited freedom desired by the Church, but also damage the Church’s holiness, catholicity, and apostolicity, and deal a blow to the Church’s moral power,” the letter adds.

Archbishop of Cape Town marks anniversary of Nelson Mandela’s first speech as a free man

The spot at Bishopscourt – the official residence of the Archbishops of Cape Town – where Nelson Mandela first addressed the world’s media as a freeman, has been marked with a



Archbishop Thabo Makgoba inspects the plaque marking the spot where Nelson Mandela first addressed the world's media following his release from prison, in the grounds of Bishops court, the official residence of Archbishops of Cape Town, watched on by his staff.

commemorative plaque. Nelson Mandela was released from prison after 27 years of captivity on 11 February 1990. He spent his first night as a freeman as a guest of Archbishop Desmond Tutu at Bishops court and gave his first press conference the following day from a terrace in front of the house. Yesterday (Tuesday), on the

28th anniversary of that press conference, the current Archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba, unveiled the plaque marking this historic spot.

After unveiling the plaque in memory of Nelson Mandela – known as Madiba – Archbishop Thabo reflecting on the Mandela's "long walk to freedom", saying: "I have often celebrated his release on February 11 by visiting the gates of the former Victor Verster Prison near Paarl. On other occasions I have sat and meditated in the apartment at Bishops court which Archbishop Tutu made available to him for his first night away from prison.

"Among the volumes of words written about or used by Nelson Mandela, the 13 that I most often remember are those from the poem by W E Henley which sustained him in prison: 'I am the master of my fate and the captain of my soul.' Those words are as true for us as when they first inspired Madiba."

As he made his comments, leaders of the ANC were meeting to decide the future of current President Jacob Zuma. Later it was revealed that they are taking steps to recall him from his presidential role

“The emotional vertigo of the Zuma decade that has left each of us, our families, our friends, our communities and our nation feeling like we have been on the deck of a ship in the middle of the fiercest storm, is close to ending,” Archbishop Thabo said yesterday. “South Africa’s destiny now is a choice that we all have in our hands: black hands, white hands, brown hands, yellow hands – rainbow hands.

“At the same time, I am a realist.

Unquestionably, I believe in South Africans and in South Africa. But as the boxer portrayed in the film Rocky Balboa says, let me remind you of something you already know: the world is not all sunshine and rainbows. It can be a very mean and nasty place and I don’t care how tough you are, it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it.

“Despite the progress made since Madiba’s release, South Africans have been hit hard by many things over the past 20 years. We have been slowed down, we have been diverted, and we at times have been stopped by barriers thrown up by morally corrupt leaders who have created a most unequal society in terms of service delivery, education and healthcare.

“My principal concern is the way in which inequality has remained pervasive, hitting the poor again and again. But, to invoke Rocky Balboa again, the key to winning, surviving and thriving is, in the end, how much you can take and keep moving forward. That’s how winning is done!

“The 11th of February 1990 was a moment of destiny. Seeing Nelson Mandela elected president of a free South Africa was another. Now, in 2018, we stand at the dawn of a new age where the dizziness of uncertainty can be replaced by the equilibrium of equality. We are again witnesses to a moment of destiny in which a decade of corruption can be replaced with the birth of a South Africa which, despite its many challenges, has a chance to unite, not as a political party but rather as a society committed to becoming a nation of extraordinary achievers of equality.”

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