

## Archbishop Clarke to visit CMS Ireland partners in Zambia



On Monday 19th February, the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, will join CMS Ireland's Mission Director, Jenny Smyth, and the society's President, the Revd Adrian Dorrian, on a partner visit to the Diocese of Northern Zambia.

As part of the programme, Dr Clarke will preach at a Confirmation Service in St James' Parish, Buchi, and will participate in the confirmations

alongside the Most Revd Albert Chama, Archbishop of Central Africa and Bishop of Northern Zambia. Archbishop Clarke and Mr Dorrian will also contribute to teaching sessions at St John's Seminary in Kitwe, where CMSI Mission Partners the Revd Keith and Lyn Scott are based.

Speaking ahead of the visit, Archbishop Clarke identified his hopes for his time in Zambia: "I am looking forward to deepening the growing relationship between CMS Ireland and our partners in Zambia. As part of our ongoing journey of faith together, we can learn and support each other through prayer, faith and devotion. We have much to offer to each other, and I believe that this visit will enable our shared fellowship to move to a deeper and better understanding of each other's needs and strengths.

"Mission is not simply something that happens in far-away places, but should be the cornerstone of our relationship with God, and I look forward to being challenged and encouraged by the faith and determination of our partners to reach out to their own people, and to ask what we can do better to facilitate that mission. Having known Archbishop Chama as a

fellow Anglican Primate for some years, it will be a personal delight to enjoy his hospitality.”

CMSI seeks to nurture deeper connections between different parts of the global Church, to encourage mutual sharing and support. Central to this approach is a commitment to facilitate visits from Church leaders in Ireland to CMSI’s Global Partners in Africa and Nepal.

These visits often include opportunities to participate in teaching and training with theology students or clergy.

In 2017, visits were made to CMSI’s Global Partners by the Revd Malcolm Kingston, Sister Myrtle Morrison, Canon Dr Maurice Elliott, Canon James Carson, and a team from the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry that included Bishop Patrick Rooke and four of his clergy.

In addition, CMSI hosted visits to Ireland by Church leaders from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Sudan, Rwanda and Zambia.

The society is currently preparing to welcome Bishop Seth Ndayirukiye of Matana Diocese, Burundi.

## Vatican calls pre-synod meeting with young people in March

As the Catholic Church prepares to welcome youths from around the world to a preparatory meeting for the Synod of Bishops on youth, Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri said the church is using every means of communication available to listen to young people from all walks of life.

Speaking to journalists on February 16, Cardinal Baldisseri, the general secretary of the Synod of Bishops, said social networks such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter will allow young people to follow and interact “with their peers in Rome” attending the March 19-24 pre-synod meeting.

“In short, even through the new technologies of communication, the pre-synod meeting wants to broaden as much as possible the audience of young people involved so that no one should feel excluded,” Cardinal Baldisseri said.

Announcing the pre-synod meeting last October, Pope Francis said he hoped Christian and non-Christian young people from around the world would attend so the church could listen to the



### **Pope Francis greets Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri**

hopes and concerns of all young men and women.

“Through this journey, the church wants to listen to the voices, the sensibilities, the faith as well as the doubts and criticisms of young people. We must listen to young people,” Pope Francis had said.

The theme chosen by the Pope for the Synod of Bishops, which will be in October, is: “Young people, faith and vocational discernment.”

The 300 young people invited to the pre-synod meeting in March were chosen to represent national bishops’ conferences, the Eastern

Catholic churches, men and women in consecrated life and seminarians preparing for the priesthood.

The gathering also will include representatives from other Christian communities and other religions and experts in the fields of education, culture, sports and arts, who “are involved in helping young people discern their choices in life,” according to the synod office.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops announced in January that their two-person delegation would include a French Catholic woman and a member of one of Canada’s indigenous communities, who participates in a variety of Christian activities but told The Catholic Register he identifies more with his Cree spirituality. The bishops of India said February 14 that they had chosen three Catholics involved in youth ministry as well as a young Hindu and a young Sikh.

“In this pre-synod meeting, we will listen to youths ‘live’ to better understand their situation: what they think of themselves and of adults; how they live their faith and what difficulties they find being Christian; how they plan their lives and what problems they face in discerning their vocation; how they see the church today and

how they would like to see it,” Cardinal Baldisseri said.

The pre-synod meeting, he added, also will include young men and women from what many consider the margins of society, particularly young victims of human trafficking and prostitution.

During an October 12 meeting at the Vatican with adults and teenagers who had taken part in a reflection on human trafficking, Pope Francis said he hoped some survivors of trafficking would address the Synod of Bishops to share their stories and “call the church to action.”

“It is my great desire,” he said, “that young people representing the ‘peripheries’ would be the protagonists of this synod.”

Cardinal Baldisseri said the Pope’s suggestion was taken to heart, and he confirmed three young survivors would be present at the pre-synod meeting.

Filippo Passantino, a young Italian who will attend the pre-synod meeting, said a group of young people are helping develop the meeting’s social media and use it as an “open forum for all.”

They plan to open a WhatsApp messaging group so that young people from around the world can send messages, questions and concerns during the pre-synod meeting, he said.

“We are trying to open various doors so that many more than the 300 people invited can enter the pre-synod meeting hall,” Passantino said.

Stella Marillene Nishimwe, a young woman from Burundi also attending the gathering, told journalists she hoped the synod will be a new era in the church’s dialogue with “all young people, not just Catholics.”

“Who knows what fruit this synod will bring? What I am sure of is that everything will depend on our participation,” she said. “The ball is in our court.”

## **New key post for university chaplain in the Church in Wales**

A university chaplain has been appointed to a new key post in the Church in Wales.

The Revd Dr Ainsley Griffiths will be the Church’s first Director of Faith, Order and Unity, responsible for developing all aspects of its work relating to doctrine and theological reflection,





liturgy, and ecumenical and interfaith relations and advising the Bench of Bishops.

Dr Griffiths takes up the role having spent the past 13 years as Chaplain of the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David (previously Trinity College, Carmarthen) and Continuing Ministerial Development Officer for the Diocese of St Davids.

A maths graduate and former maths teacher, Dr Griffiths trained for ministry at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, and was ordained at Bangor Cathedral in 1998. He was ordained at Bangor Cathedral in 1998, subsequently serving his curacy there as Minor Canon. Before taking up the role of Chaplain, he served as Vicar of Pwllheli and Aber-erch on the Llŷn peninsula.

Announcing the appointment, the Bishop of St Asaph, Gregory Cameron, the Church's lead bishop on Faith, Order and Unity, said, "I am delighted to welcome Ainsley to this new role. He brings a wealth of talent and experience as a theologian and as a Welsh speaker which ideally suit him for this task."

## **Bishop Denis Brennan of Ferns at Vatican conference on human trafficking and modern slave labour**

Bishops, clergy and religious, as well as senior law enforcement officers and representatives from international organisations gathered in the Vatican last week for the fifth annual Santa Marta Group conference held to update and share best practice in the fight against human trafficking and modern slave labour. Bishop Denis Brennan, Bishop of Ferns, represented the Irish Bishops' Conference at the meeting.

The conference welcomed representatives from over 30 countries, including delegates from Africa, Asia Pacific, North and South America and Europe.



Speakers at the conference included Cardinal Vincent Nichols, president of the Santa Marta Group, and Cardinal Charles Bo of Myanmar; Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Cressida Dick and General Commissioner Nestor Roncaglia of the Argentine Federal Police; and Jean Baderschneider of the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery.

Speaking during the conference, Cardinal Nichols said, 'Slavery continues to affect the most vulnerable in our communities and the latest UN figures suggests over forty million people are now potential victims. This year's conference hopes to build on the hard work

produced by SMG partners since the group was established in 2014. The conference is an opportunity for law enforcement and the Church to share evidence of practical cooperation and effective responses driven by the importance of supporting survivors of human trafficking.’

‘Slavery is an affront to human dignity and we all have a responsibility to fight against it. This conference is a unique opportunity to strengthen our global response as we move to specific and accountable actions.’

Speaking at the end of the conference, Bishop Brennan said that many of the delegations had stressed the importance of moral values in the fight against human trafficking, ‘This goes to the heart of the matter where the money made is the driving force and to that end people are used and abused,’ he said, ‘This view was summed up succinctly in a contribution from the Polish group when they said “people were created to be loved ... things were created to be used ... when we love things and use people we all lose.”’

The conference coincided with the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking, which is held on the feast day of Saint Josephine Bakhita a Sudanese nun, who as a child had the traumatic experience of being

a victim of human trafficking. Cardinal Pietro Parolin celebrated the feast with a Mass held in Saint Peter's Basilica. The conference closed on Friday 9 February with an audience with Pope Francis.

Launched in 2014 by Pope Francis and led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols the Santa Marta Group is a unique global partnership between law enforcement and the Catholic Church. Since 2014 the group has grown to become a worldwide network covering 35 countries.

## **Newry service will recall maritime accident**

On Sunday 18 February, Capt Gary Roberts (Church Army) will conduct a service in St Patrick's, Newry, commemorating and rededicating the graves of 3 young victims of a maritime accident.

Soldiers Private James Smith, Private Albert Barrett and Capt John MacKinlay were to become the sad casualties, not of war, but of a sporting event that ended in tragedy.

The story begins with a boating regatta held in Greenore on Tuesday 25 July 1876. Soldiers

from the 94th Regiment, based in Newry, took part and the teams competed against each other in a series of races.

On the journey back to Newry heavy squalls blew up and the small craft rowed by Smith and Barrett capsized near Killowen as did a larger vessel coming behind and crewed by soldiers.

The crew of the latter vessel made it ashore but there was no trace of Smith or Barrett. Historian Claudine Nic Giolla Chomhaill discovered during research that the body of Private James Smith was recovered near Carlingford on 8 August and interred in St Patricks on Thursday 10 at 9.00 am.

On Friday 18 August the crew of a sailing ship, "Lady Downshire" on passage from Dundrum to Whitehaven, picked up a body mid-channel, later identified as Private Albert Barrett aged 27. He was interred in Whitehaven.

There was to be yet another sad chapter to this tragedy with the suicide death of their senior officer, Captain John MacKinlay aged 35.

The graves have been restored in conjunction with the Newry Maritime Association and Newry Modern Fireplaces. Their representatives will

attend, along with The Royal British Legion, local historians and guest musicians.

## Free Belfast screening of short film highlighting mental health and suicide

Christ in Youth (CIY) is to premier an award winning short film at a **free screening** in Belfast on 8 March. *Unseen* deals with mental health and suicide and has the potential to help open up conversations about these issues among young people and young adults.

In 2014, The Irish Times reported that Ireland had the second highest suicide rate in Europe. A more recent report confirms that suicide is the leading cause of death in young men between the ages of 15–34 across Ireland.

CIY have made this film as a powerful free resource to help the church and society tackle such statistics.

The screening is tailored for youth workers, teachers, health practitioners, youth volunteers, church leaders, parents and anyone involved in pastoral care.



## The story

*Unseen* is a short film narrative about the relationship of a 17-year-old boy with his Grandfather who discovers him trying to take his own life by suicide. It later unfolds that the Grandfather's wife, the boy's Grandmother, had



also died by suicide 17 years earlier, however, no one ever talks about it. Hence the boy and his Grandfather's mental health has gone *Unseen*.

“*Unseen* is a moving and hard hitting piece and the whole idea of the film is to set up a natural and safe conversation about mental health,” says Jasper.

“The film was a nominated finalist at the 2017 Galway Film Festival and recently won the Best Irish Short-Film at the Richard Harris Film Festival in October 2017. To have such a resource being made and filmed in Ireland, with Irish actors and crew, is an incredible gift for the wider Church.”

**Belfast will host a FREE Premiere screening on Thursday 8 March at Movie House Cinema, City Side, Belfast.**

To confirm your FREE place please book a ticket here at [www.unseenfilm.org](http://www.unseenfilm.org)  
To watch a trailer of the film [click here](#).

After each showing there will be contributions from practitioners explaining how this film can be used in different settings (Schools, Youth

Groups, Universities etc). Refreshments will also be served.

## **Dunfermline Abbey celebrates 200 years since discovery of the Bruce's tomb**

Two hundred years ago this weekend the remains of one of Scotland's most famous heroes were discovered in Dunfermline.

Workmen excavating the grounds of historic Dunfermline Abbey on February 17 1818 to prepare it for the building of a new church stumbled across the final resting place of one of the nation's best known kings, King Robert the Bruce.

The discovery provoked worldwide interest and placed Dunfermline – the former capital of Scotland and the resting place of many Kings and Queens – under a global spotlight. The finest forensic scientists of the time were later deployed and held that the uncovered grave was that of the famous king.

To mark the rediscovery of the Bruce's tomb on February 17 1818, the Abbey Church will be



open on Saturday February 17 from 11am to 2pm for those who would like to visit the tomb of Robert the Bruce, situated behind the church's pulpit.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning will preach at a special service this Sunday 18 February at 10.30 am to mark the anniversary, the first of a number of significant milestones in the life of the Abbey Church of Dunfermline.

The service will be followed by a special lunch at the Glen Pavilion, Dunfermline, at which a new appeal will be launched to help provide direct support to refugees and also support the Abbey

Church of Dunfermline Restoration Fund to ensure the preservation of the Church which has a proud legacy as a place of sanctuary and refuge.

David Bradwell, Refugee Co-ordinator for Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees, will deliver an address entitled 'When I Needed A Neighbour'.

Minister at Dunfermline Abbey, the Rev MaryAnn Rennie said: "This is the first of a series of significant anniversaries in the life of the historic Abbey church, a constant presence in the life of Dunfermline and Scotland for over a thousand years. "We look forward to welcoming as many people as possible to the Abbey Church of Dunfermline to mark this important and historic anniversary in the life of not just Dunfermline, but Scotland." A series of events have been planned to mark a number of significant dates for the Church later this year and over the next three years.

# CNI



In a wide-ranging interview with the *Church Times* to mark five years in office, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has said that the Anglican Communion is in “a better place” than it was five years ago. He described the question as “a hostage to fortune”; but said that the improvements in the communion were “building on what was already happening” and he said: “I’m not taking credit for it in any way.”

The interview was conducted by the *Church Times*’ editor, Paul Handley, in Lambeth Palace, the official residence and offices of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Speaking of the improvements in the Communion, Archbishop Justin said: “We’ve had two good Primates’

Meetings. They were jolly difficult at times, but they were good. And they were very, very moving, and I still look back at moments in each of them — particularly prayer together, the eucharist together — and am bowled over by what I saw and participated in, and just think what a privilege that was to have been there. And a good ACC [Anglican Consultative Council] in Lusaka; and we've got plans for a Lambeth Conference.”

In response to questions about disagreements over human sexuality and the Church, Archbishop Justin spoke of the “huge programme” about the C of E House of Bishop’s new episcopal teaching document, which will as it’s called in rather an ungainly fashion (we need something snappy for that). But what that is doing is map out the area of agreement and disagreement.

“It’s not coming to find a conclusion,” he said. “It’s mapping out the area of our agreement and disagreement always around themes of missiology and theological anthropology and general anthropology; and looking at the culture, biblical theology, the philosophical and ethical theology, and the history and patristic theology. Those four great streams.

“Now, the issue of how the Church, after 2000 years, deals with understandings of human sexuality is about as big and complicated an issue as you’re ever going to get. And it’s not one you make a snappy decision on.”

Asked for his response to criticisms that his approach to “disagreeing well” is unbiblical, Archbishop Justin said: “I think when you look through, particularly, Paul’s Letter to the Romans, 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians, the latter part of Philippians, Ephesians — I mean, you could go on and on — a lot of the underlying theme is how a Church that was extraordinarily diverse, particularly between Greeks and Jews, or Jews and non-Jews, Greeks meaning everyone who wasn’t Jewish, how that Church found its unity in Jesus Christ, although it disagreed on numerous things, most fundamentally about the application of the law.

“And we all know these arguments. Paul, I would not sum up his teaching as ‘disagreeing well’: I think that would be naff and obviously wildly simplistic; but there is this struggle to see how you live in love and unity when you disagree with one another — and that is disagreeing well.

“Now, you can create a straw man and say: ‘It doesn’t matter what we disagree on, as long as

we're nice to each other' and suggest that I'm saying that. That's rubbish — of course it matters what we disagree on. These arguments are incredibly important, not only about sexuality, but about numerous other things within the Church.

“But do we live out that disagreement in a way that demonstrates that we are caught up in the love of God and the love of Christ? Or do we live them out in a way that says we're behaving like a political party having a row?”

“That has quite a fundamental impact on the unity that we're aiming for.”

- [Click here](#) to read the full interview with Archbishop Justin Welby on the Church Times website.

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