



George W Bush joins thousands paying respects to Rev Billy Graham

Thousands of people including a former president have filed slowly past the coffin of the Rev Billy Graham to pay final respects to a man who reached millions with his message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Heavy overnight rain tapered to a light, occasional drizzle on Monday morning when the doors opened to the boyhood home of the

famed evangelist, who died on Wednesday aged 99.

The rain had stopped by late afternoon when former president George W Bush arrived in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his wife Laura.

Mourners of all races, young and old, some in suits and some in T-shirts and flip-flops, walked through the parlour where Mr Graham's closed coffin lay on a black pedestal.

They walked past family photos and a cross made of white lilies to see the simple plywood container made by prison inmates. At the door for the first few hours was Graham's grandson Roy, shaking the hand of every person who came to see his grandfather.

"I just wanted to tell them how much I appreciated the love for my family," he said.

They responded with stories. Roy Graham said what moved him the most were the dozens who paused and told him the exact moment and place Mr Graham came into their lives through his hundreds of crusades around the world.



Mr Graham's funeral is on Friday, and President Donald Trump said he will attend. Invitations were sent to all ex-presidents of the US.

Mr Bush said he chose Monday because he had a scheduling conflict with the funeral. He was greeted by Mr Graham's son Franklin and spent about 30 minutes with the family during a private viewing.

"Laura and I are honoured to be able to come and pay our respects to the Graham family and, more importantly, to be able to say goodbye to a person who was influential in our lives and

influential in the lives of millions," Mr Bush told reporters afterwards.

He also brought condolences to the family from his father, George HW Bush, whom he described as a great friend of Mr Graham's.

"I know he wished he could come too, but he's not moving around much these days," Mr Bush said.

Barack Obama is not planning to attend memorial services for Mr Graham this week, his office said.

Mr Obama tweeted last week that Mr Graham was "was a humble servant who prayed for so many - and who, with wisdom and grace, gave hope and guidance to generations of Americans".

Public viewing will continue on Monday and Tuesday at Mr Graham's Charlotte library on the campus of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. His body will then be taken to the US Capitol, where he will be the first private citizen to lie in honour there since civil rights hero Rosa Parks in 2005.

The funeral will be held in a giant tent as a nod to Mr Graham's 1949 Los Angeles crusade.

He will be buried beside his wife Ruth, who died in 2007, at the foot of a cross-shaped walkway at the library in Charlotte.



2,500 students on stage this week for Emmanuel concert series in Dublin

The Archdiocese of Dublin Emmanuel student concert series began on Monday night and finishes on Thursday 1 March.

This year marks the twelfth annual Emmanuel concert series and the 2018 project is the largest to date as almost two and a half thousand teenagers from seventy different schools throughout Dublin will take to the stage in DCU's Helix concert hall to sing and play Church music.

The Emmanuel concert series is unique in the Irish Church. The live concerts are almost entirely student led, with soloists, musicians, presenters and MCs chosen from participating schools.

This year, as we look ahead to the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August, students will sing hymns that will be sung at the WMOF Closing Mass – hopefully celebrated by Pope Francis! Although a visit by Pope Francis to the World Meeting of Families has yet to be confirmed, preparations – even down to the choice of music for ceremonies at the World Meeting – are already under way. Some of that religious music will be heard live for the first time this week at the Emmanuel concerts.

Among the many compositions the students will sing will be three pieces that have been specially written for the World Meeting of Families in August – *Joy for all the Earth* by Ephron Feely,

People of Joy, written by Brendan Dowd, and *Joy for the World* by Father Liam Lawton.

As in previous years, boys and girls from the Holy Family School for the Deaf in Cabra will together sign and participate in concerts on the Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Emmanuel is a project of the Dublin Diocesan Liturgical Resource Centre and promotes the use of Sacred Music in Secondary schools. Before getting on stage each day the students participate in faith-based workshops, reflections rehearse hymns and play music. Each morning of workshops is followed by full rehearsals and then a live concert every evening where parents, family members, teachers and the public get to enjoy the fruits of the musical and spiritual preparations.

The students take the music and prayers they learn during the Emmanuel workshops and concerts, use, and adapt them in their own prayer services and liturgies in their school communities throughout the year.

Tickets for the Emmanuel 2018 can be purchased on www.thehelix.ie or by calling (01) 700 7000. For more information on the

Emmanuel 2018 series see
www.dublindiocese.ie.

Presbyterian church to showcase mission at home

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) has announced the dates for its annual series of Mission in Ireland Information Evenings, which will take place in March. The seven events will showcase mission work at home on the island and will be opened by the Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely, who will speak at the first evening, which takes place in Belmont Presbyterian Church in Belfast on 11 March.

Organised by the Church's Council for Mission in Ireland (CMI), the information evenings are also an opportunity to discover more about the work of the Council and hear from guest speakers who will highlight their work and witness in the places that God has placed them.

Looking forward to the first evening in Belmont Presbyterian Church in Belfast, Dr. McNeely said, "When people think of 'mission' we probably think of the work of the great missionaries of the 19th and 20th centuries, or the

amazing work that our global mission workers are doing overseas today.

“In Matthew we read how Jesus calls each of us to mission and the making of disciples as part of the Great Commission. Later in the Book of Acts Jesus instructs His followers to start locally, being His witnesses at home in Jerusalem first.

“The work at home here in Ireland is not finished. Travelling across the island encouraging our Church and discovering its unique contribution to local life, I see the amazing work that is being done in the name of Christ by those engaged in Home Mission. The Information Evenings that are coming up are great opportunities to find out more about this invaluable work and the work of the Council for Mission in Ireland.”

The Mission in Ireland Information Evenings take place in:

Belmont Presbyterian Church, Belfast and Drumquin Presbyterian Church, Omagh (11th March), Killymurris Presbyterian Church, near Ballymena and First Cookstown Presbyterian (14th March), Muckamore Presbyterian Church (18th March), Newtowncunningham Presbyterian Church, County Donegal (21st March) and First Larne Presbyterian Church (25th March). Full

details can be found on
www.presbyterianireland.org/events.

Encouraging people with an interest in mission to attend, Very Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar, convener of the Council for Mission in Ireland, said. “The role of the Council is amazingly diverse and includes overseeing the huge variety of work in Home Mission and Irish Mission.

“The annual information evenings are an opportunity to hear first hand what the Council for Mission in Ireland is currently doing.

“They also provide an opportunity for members of our congregations to get a glimpse into mission work in Ireland, where the guest speakers highlight stories of God at work. Everyone is warmly invited.”

Anglican Franciscan Sisters appointed to Limerick parish

The Bishop of Limerick, Rt Rev Kenneth Kraron has announced the appointment of the Revd. Isabel Keegan as priest-in-charge of the parish of Kilcolman, and the Revd. Ann-Marie Stuart as assistant priest in the same parish.

They are currently serving in the Diocese of Salisbury in the Church of England, and are members of the Anglican Franciscan Community. Both have served as incumbents in the past, and Ann-Marie has experience of a ministry of spirituality and hopes to develop this in the diocese.

On hearing the news Isabel and Ann-Marie said: “we are delighted with this opportunity to minister in Co. Kerry which is indeed a very special place.”

Bishop Kenneth commented: “I’m pleased to be able to welcome into the diocese two priests with a wide and varied experience of ministry, and I look forward to working with Isabel and Ann-Marie in the near future.”

New school building for St Patrick’s Cathedral Grammar School

A new school building for St Patrick’s Cathedral Grammar School has just been unveiled on a Kevin Street. The new building is designed by Quilligan Architects, a practice based on nearby Camden Street.

A local community group commented on Facebook : There’s an interesting history to this



school, which dates its origins to 1431: surely making it one of country's oldest educational establishments.

The new building is a fine addition to the area.

Some consider the schools most recent buildings to be plain and drab and most likely reflect the tight finances when they were built in the 1980s. The new school house is much more interesting.

Read more about the schools history here:
<http://www.stpatrickscgs.ie/index.php/school/history>



Bell-silencing system goes like the clappers

A church in England has been given £3,000 to install a silent bell-ringing system so bell-ringers can train without disturbing parishioners.

A lottery grant is paying for a silent eight-bell simulator at St James' the Great Church in Barrow, Cumbria.

Lottery money has already helped the church repair its rain-damaged bells but now practice can be conducted in silence by removing clappers and attaching sensors to the bells so

bell-ringers can hear synthesised tones in headphones. Andy Pollock, tower captain, said: “We will be able to offer better facilities for people to learn and preserve this skill for generations to come.”

St James is inviting volunteers to join them, saying bell ringing offers a “moderate workout for both body and mind” and is suitable for anyone aged 11 and above.

The church is one of a number across the country recruiting 1,400 bell ringers to help mark 100 years since the First World War ended. Bells nationwide will ring out on Armistice Day.

Vatican, Versace and Vogue team up to exhibit papal vestments at Met Gala

The Vatican, Versace and Vogue are joining forces to show off the Catholic influences in fashion. The Vatican’s culture minister joined Donatella Versace and Vogue’s Anna Wintour on Monday to offer sneak peek of gorgeous Vatican liturgical vestments, jeweled miters and historic papal tiaras that will star in a spring exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



Italian designer Donatella Versace poses on February 26, 2018, with editor-in-chief of Vogue Anna Wintour and cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Vatican Pontifical Council for Culture, at Rome's Palazzo Colonna.

The Vatican is set to loan rare papal pieces for this year's Catholic themed Met Gala. Around 40 pieces of rare ecclesiastical fashion will be displayed at the **upcoming Costume Institute exhibition** - many of which have never left the Vatican before.

Pieces include a papal tiara with 18,000 diamonds and items worn by Pope Benedict 14th in the 1600s, according to The Guardian.

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NEWS February 28

Guests will arrive to the New York annual fundraising gala dressed in their - or their chosen designer's interpretation of the religion.

Known as the Oscars of the fashion industry, the 'Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination', is expected in usual fashion to attract a wide range of stars.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art hosted a press presentation in Rome on Monday, lead by curator Andrew Bolton.

He was joined by American Vogue editor-in-chief, Anna Wintour, who is also a trustee of the museum.

Speaking about the exhibition, Wintour said "I want [red-carpet guests] to understand the importance of the exhibition. "Of course the party is always fun and it's great to see what everyone is wearing, but [it serves] to put the spotlight on the exhibition.

But this isn't the first time attendees of the Met Gala have seen Vatican pieces on display.

The Vatican last lent pieces to the Met for The Vatican Collections exhibit in 1983.

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