

Nuncio offers support to ‘shaken’ Irish church ahead of World Meeting of Families



Pope Francis would want his representative to “understand, appreciate and support,” the “rekindling of the confidence of the People of God in their spiritual leaders” in Ireland.

This is especially true with the forthcoming World Meeting of Families and mindful of “the crisis that has shaken this local church”,

according to the Papal Nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo.

“We know that the Irish people are a people of faith and that faith is still there, however deeply the confidence may have been eroded,” he said when he hosted members of the Executive of the Association of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI) at the Apostolic Nunciature in Dublin.

Stating that he is “simply a messenger” who has come to serve, he told the religious present that consecrated people continue the mission of Christ in a specific way in their consecrated life which is a radical and total response “especially in challenging situations.”

The Nuncio stated that today more than ever what is needed is a radical following of Christ, that should lead to collective action for common good. “Consecrated persons have that identity and mission. God has heard the cry of his people, and by calling you, he is responding to that cry for spiritual assistance and renewal,” he said.

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Bishop welcomes election of Presbyterian Moderator

Bishop Harold Miller of Down & Dromore has expressed his delight at the news of the election for Presbyterian Moderator this week.

He said: 'It is with great joy that I heard the news that Charles McMullan is Moderator-elect of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

I have known Charles for many years and have had the privilege of ministering in West Church, Bangor. Charles is a man of humility and courage, a capable leader and Church-builder.

He is the one of God's choice for this time, and will work for the blessing of the whole church and the whole community on this island'.

Launch of ReLENTless Prayer for north Belfast

Churches and Christian communities in north Belfast will come together to hold 40 days of ReLENTless prayer, offering community prayer space during the entire Lent period. The initiative is driven by the Church of Ireland Lower Shankill Ministry Team, headed by the Rev Canon James



Carson, rector, and his wife Heather, parish development officer.

It has the support of 21 local churches and Christian communities to date, with Gordon College, an evangelical, non-denominational College in Wenham, north of Boston, Massachusetts, USA, also expressing a desire to join this wave of prayer for communities in north Belfast. The College will be covering one of the days in prayer. Students from the College have been visiting Belfast in partnership with the Duncairn Centre for several years.

The initiative was launched in St Michael's, off Shankill Road, on Friday February 2, just hours

after 230 people had gathered at the church to examine political Loyalism 20 years on from the Good Friday Agreement – the launch event of the 4 Corners Festival (see below).

Welcoming church and community representatives to the launch, Canon Carson referred to the previous night's event. "There is hope in our community and that hope is going to be accentuated by prayer," he said...

... Churches and Christian communities taking part in ReLENTless Prayer to date: St Michael's Col, St Stephen's Cofl, Divine Healing Ministries, SoulSpace, Mission to Seafarers & All Nations Ministries, Greenisland Parish Cofl, Connect Church Army Base, Shankill Church of the Nazarene, Shankill Methodist, St Paul's Cofl, Eglinton Presbyterian, St Andrew's Cofl, St Columba's Cofl, Joanmount Methodist, Lamb of God Community, Woodvale Methodist, Church Mission Society, St Matthew's Cofl, Alexandra Presbyterian, Jennymount Methodist, Gordon College nr Boston, Massachusetts.

Read more at -

<http://connor.anglican.org/2018/02/07/launch-relentless-prayer-north-belfast/>

Living Worship 2018 – Planning for Holy Week and Easter

The second of Church Music Dublin's Living Worship 2018 sessions takes place on Saturday February 24.

'Planning for Holy Week and Easter' will be led by the Revd Jack Kinhead. It takes place in the Mageough Hall, Cowper Road, Rathmines, beside Cowper Luas Stop, from 10am to 12.45pm.

This session will provide an opportunity to consider music within the context of Holy Week and Easter liturgy.

All are welcome to attend and there is a fee of €10 per person which includes refreshments. Booking is not required, simply come along.

For further information contact honsec@churchmusicdublin.org.

Church Music Dublin is an agency of the United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough. They aim to support music in local churches by providing information and training and by fostering a sense of community among musicians. For more see their website www.churchmusicdublin.org

New Dean for Kildare



Rev Tim Wright has been appointed incumbent of the Grouped Parishes of Kildare and Newbridge (Meath & Kildare). he will also be Dean of St Brigid's Cathedral in Kildare. His appointment was announced today (4th Feb).

Tim is married to Karen and they have three adult sons, one based in Japan and two in England. Prior to coming to Kildare and Newbridge Group of Parishes he has ministered

as a chaplain within the RAF for twenty years, serving in Germany, the Netherlands and Cyprus as well as at various locations within the UK. His final assignment was a Deputy Chaplain-in-Chief.

Tim has served in the parish of Bramcote in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. He also spent five years as Vicar of Glenavy with The Tunny and Crumlin, in the Diocese of Connor.

Dublin Black Santa Service at St Ann's, Dawson Street

The annual Black Santa service at which money collected during the Black Santa Sit Out before Christmas, will take place in St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, on February 11 at 11am. Alice Leahy of Trust will be the speaker. All are welcome to attend.

Church Investors threaten businesses over lack of female board members

A coalition of Christian investors with assets of over £17bn has demanded businesses to appoint more female board directors.



The Church Investors Group (CIG), which is made up of 61 members including the pension fund for the Church of England and the Methodist Church, warned they would vote against board nominations where women account for less than 33 per cent of board members in the forthcoming annual meeting season.

Representative Stephen Beer, chief investment officer at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, told Premier News why the group was making threats. "It's the right thing to do because for individuals...made equally in the sight of God, with equal worth - it's right that they have the same opportunities," he said.

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100 years since women allowed to vote, Christian leaders call for more progress

The recently appointed Bishop of London and a Christian MP have said the UK still has progress to make in regards to society's treatment of women.

Labour MP Rachael Maskell and Rt Rev Sarah Mullally, the newly appointed Bishop of London, spoke with Premier on the 100th anniversary of Representation Of The People Act, in which some women first won the right to vote in the UK.

Bishop Sarah, who published a blog on Tuesday to mark the centenary of the law, told Premier's News Hour about what the day meant to her.

"I know that I wouldn't be in the position I am today if it wasn't for those woman.

"My grandmother spoke to me about her recollection of winning the vote all those years ago and she put the confidence into me that made me believe that I could do anything."

Bishop Sarah, who's currently the Bishop of Crediton, is the first female to be chosen as the Bishop of London.

Today in Christian History

February 8, 356: For the third time since the Council of Nicea in 325, Athanasius goes into exile. The defender of orthodoxy was out of favour as Arianism, a heresy condemned at the council, ran rampant throughout the Empire. He would be exiled twice more before he died.

February 8, 1587: Mary, Queen of Scots, is beheaded. Attempting to restore Catholicism to England, she began persecuting Protestants. But, largely thanks to the work of John Knox, her attempts failed.

February 8, 1693: The College of William and Mary is founded in Williamsburg, Virginia. Originally intended to educate Anglican clergymen, it is America's second-oldest higher education institution (Harvard is the oldest).

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