



## **RAF 100**

**The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and The Duke and Duchess of Sussex arrive at Westminster Abbey yesterday to attend a service marking the Centenary of the Royal Air Force**

July 11 2018

## **Bishop Nulty warns on impact of rising fuel costs on vulnerable families**

Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, has warned of the effects of increasing energy costs on vulnerable families. Bishop Nulty was speaking to the *Sunday Independent* ahead of energy price increases which will come into effect in the coming weeks.

Bishop Nulty said, 'This is a very real issue. The huge poverty in Ireland is energy poverty and I'm afraid a lot of people are missing it.'

'I know of people who are already trying to pay back huge energy bills after the Beast from the East hit and now, with further hikes on top of that, many simply won't be able to cope.'

Bishop Nulty continued, 'The Government needs to look at the price increases and think about how the poor in society can be supported, otherwise the poor are going to get even poorer.'

'Without a shadow of a doubt the economy has improved but we still have to think about the most vulnerable among us and how this is going to affect them.'

Last month, St Vincent de Paul said that more than 800,000 people in Ireland were currently living in poverty. This is despite Ireland's position as one of the wealthiest countries in the world.



### **The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall leave Westminster Abbey after yesterday's RAF 100 service.**

The charity says the situation is completely “unacceptable” and has called on the Government to stop measuring the country’s economic growth as a sign of wealth.

Despite Ireland’s economic growth in recent years, 780,000 people now live below the poverty line – 16 per cent of the Irish population. The number of children living in poverty has increased by 70,000 compared with 10 years ago.

### **Archbishop Jackson in partnership visit to Burundi**

This week Archbishop Michael Jackson will join CMS Ireland’s Mission Director, Jenny Smyth and the Revd Dr

July 11 2018

## **Archbishop Jackson**

Paddy McGlinchey (Church of Ireland Theological Institute), on a partner visit to Burundi.

The first part of their programme will see the team spending time with CMSI's partners in the Diocese of Matana, where they will visit various mission projects.



As part of their partnership links through CMSI, a number of Church of Ireland parishes support theological education in Matana. The team hopes to meet with some of the student pastors, to bring greetings and share encouragements.

In Matana and its neighbouring diocese of Makamba, the team will also visit a Christian Aid programme that is supported by the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

The team will spend time at Bujumbura Christian University in Burundi's capital city where Archbishop Jackson and Dr McGlinchey will lead teaching sessions around the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission.

July 11 2018

This visit to Burundi is the latest expression of CMSI's commitment to make connections between different parts of the worldwide Church. Visits – in both directions – are a central part of this approach. CMSI helps teams, individuals and Church leaders spend time together and learn how to support one another in mission.

Both Gitega and Matana Diocese's have seen the [appointment of new bishops](#) in the last year. Both Bishop Seth (Matana) and Bishop Aimee-Joseph (Gitega) are well known to CMSI supporters, having visited Ireland previously.

Speaking ahead of this week's visit, Archbishop Michael said: "My hope and my prayer for this visit are that links will be strengthened and deepened between Ireland and Burundi in the areas of Discipleship, Justice, Reconciliation and Ecology – all of which fit with the Five Marks," Archbishop Jackson said. "I'm looking forward to meeting people in Burundi and worshipping with them; listening to their story of faith and their passion for the Gospel in word and deed."

This is the second 'Archbishop visit' that CMSI has facilitated in 2018. In January, Archbishop of Armagh, Most Revd Richard Clarke, joined Jenny and CMSI's Chair of Trustees, Revd Adrian Dorrian on a [partner visit to Zambia](#).

Speaking about this week's visit, Jenny had this to say:

"Central to CMSI's work is a commitment to make connections between different parts of the Body of Christ. By facilitating visits and face-to-face encounters, we

July 11 2018

hope to nurture greater understanding, deeper relationships and mutual sharing in our common task of mission. We're delighted that Archbishop Michael and Paddy have chosen to visit our partners in Burundi. Our prayer is that, as they bring encouragement and blessings to our partners, they will themselves be inspired and blessed."

## **Belfast Parish worships on Rathlin Island**

A group of parishioners from St Columba's, Knock, Diocese of Down and Dromore, travelled to the northern reaches of Connor Diocese on July 1 for a parish pilgrimage to Rathlin Island.

Knock parishioner Ian Noad has provided this report of a wonderful day out, which included worship in St Thomas' Parish Church, Rathlin.

Leaving behind a glorious blue sky in Belfast on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July, that would surely have lured even Van Gogh into his back garden with paintbrush and easel, a posse of some 60 parishioners from St Columba's, young and old, plus Canon Ken's two dogs, set sail from Ballycastle on the 10am ferry across a millpond north channel.

The itinerary had been painstakingly reconnoitred by our Organist and Choral Director, Dr Joe McKee, and Yvonne, already ensconced on the island for the weekend with Alastair and Ruth McCartney in most comfortable accommodation overlooking Church Bay.

The visit was a repeat of that undertaken by St Columba's in August 2013, a truly trans diocesan affair between Connor and Down and Dromore, with the aim of renewing support and friendship with the parishioners of Rathlin by

July 11 2018



## **The Rector and parishioners from Knock arrive by ferry on Rathlin Island**

joining them in a service of Holy Communion in their own historic parish church of St Thomas.

Disembarking at the harbour, a large number of parishioners headed straight for the delightful coffee shop, *The Watershed*, where they were served coffee and delicious scones by an industrious and most willing staff in record time, before proceedings were due to commence at 11.30am.

St Thomas' was packed to capacity, with standing room only! The service was conducted with aplomb by our Rector, Canon John Auchmuty, to whom grateful thanks

July 11 2018

must be expressed for the faultless organisation of the whole day, ably assisted by Canon Ken Smyth and Epistle reader, Andrew Ellis.

In his sermon, the Rector focused on the importance of responding to the needs of the individual in both word and deeds, whilst Dr Joe Mckee, on the digital piano, accompanied by several members of St Columba's choir, lead the music and singing of the combined congregations in rousing style, metaphorically raising the very rafters of the roof with wonderfully appropriate hymns such as *Summer Suns Are Glowing* and the maritime *Will Your Anchor Hold?*

The spirit of communion and fellowship experienced by everyone present was matched by the warmth of welcome and friendship afforded, once again, to the happy visitors by the resident parishioners. The service concluded in a most practical manner, with Canon Ken drawing on his unrivalled local knowledge to proffer helpful tips about the many places of interest to visit on the island.

After what had been an early start to the day for many – and none earlier than the Rector and Caroline, who had duly delivered son Henry to the city airport at 5am! – lunch time soon beckoned, with parishioners producing a magnificent array of picnic offerings for consumption whilst enjoying the view across the bay, and others opting to take the island bus to the recently opened RSPB Seabird Centre for their relaxing repast.

Thereafter, parishioners fanned out to invade the island in earnest – though mercifully with considerably less murderous and shocking intent than that of earlier raiders



during the turbulent 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries – visiting the East, West and Rue lighthouses as well as the interesting Heritage Centre, spotting the many species of birds and seals, or just strolling along the winding roads and relaxing on the sea front.

Regretfully, the famous cave where Robert the Bruce allegedly gained inspiration by the untiring efforts of an indomitable spider could only be accessed by sea.

The afternoon provided a unique opportunity for parishioners and their families to ‘do their own thing’ on the island, whilst enjoying each other’s company with much laughter and merriment along the way.

The unusual summer heat was tempered by a delightfully cool onshore breeze, perfect for walking and strolling, or

July 11 2018

just sitting and relaxing, and the island was looking at its very best, simply beautiful, in every possible direction.

In what seemed like no time at all, the 5.30pm ferry appeared and parishioners enjoyed another smooth and highly sociable crossing back to Ballycastle, where many decided to conclude the outing by sampling the famous local fish and chips. Others driving home by car who happened to tune into Radio Ulster were serenaded by the Ballylone Concert Flute Band on the programme *Strike Up the Band*, presented by none other than our very own Dr Joe McKee!

A perfect end to a perfect day, blessed by superb weather and thoroughly enjoyed by all from St Columba's who participated in an abundance of friendship, joy and fellowship, whilst offering a real sense of support and purposeful outreach to the parishioners of St Thomas' on Rathlin Island.

It cannot be too long before we are back again.

## Through fund-raising to friendship

It is a fair question: why would a high-flying Irish lawyer spend a good part of her free time working to support men and women with an intellectual disability? But for Alison, a retired Circuit Court judge in Ireland, the answer comes easily: in a word, "friendship." Alison explains that it was almost 30 years ago, when she was first invited to join the fund-raising committee for [L'Arche Cork, Ireland](#). "The fundraising work was hard but very worthwhile because I



**Alison with a red tie.**

was introduced to a vibrant Community, where I made good friends with those with and without intellectual disabilities.”

Over the years, Alison has tirelessly taken on role after role at Board level in L'Arche, and now finds herself heading up L'Arche's International Stewardship Board. “In each role I found a new challenge and I helped in any way I could to improve conditions for those in L'Arche Communities worldwide.” But while the challenges have changed, one thing that has remained constant has been Alison's core motivation: “For me the making and sustaining of relationships within L'Arche has been a very important part of my life. In this fragmented and difficult world, the life lived in L'Arche Communities is inspirational and a sign of hope.”

July 11 2018

Become a volunteer or a friend! Discover three examples to bring in your passion, experience and desire for L'Arche [here](#).

<https://www.larche.org/volunteer>

## **US Bishops act following “dramatic and profoundly uncomfortable” #MeToo listening exercise**

Bishops in the US-based Episcopal Church (TEC) have adopted a covenant committing them to seek change after hearing personal stories of abuse, harassment and exploitation.

Ahead of the Church's General Convention – the triennial governing synod of the province currently taking place in Austin, Texas – the bishops took part in a “special listening liturgy” to acknowledge the #MeToo movement. They then adopted “A Working Covenant for the Practice of Equity and Justice for All in The Episcopal Church” which commits them to seeking change.

The liturgy included stories chosen from more than 40 testimonies submitted to the Church. “Names and identifying information were redacted, but the readings and silence within the liturgy was both dramatic and profoundly uncomfortable for those attending,”

TEC's public affairs department said. “The Covenant is meant as a first step in the Church's response.”



Bishop Audrey Scanlan of Central Pennsylvania said that plans are underway to create a toolkit to help dioceses create their own kind of listening events to begin the hard work that is needed. “Sexual violence, aggression, exploitation and harassment exist in our church. We can’t let that be the last word,” she said.

In their Covenant, the bishops say that “the church as both community of faith and workplace is not immune to abuse, harassment and exploitation of people of varying gender, racial and cultural identities. As pastoral and prophetic leaders of the church, we bear the responsibility to continue the healing and transformational work that has yet to be fully realised.

“Together, we commit ourselves in our local contexts to strive daily, transforming the culture of our church into a

July 11 2018

more just, safe, caring and prophetic place for all. . . We seek to shift our institutional life from one which benefits a few at the expense of others, and more determinedly live our baptismal vows following the way of Jesus.”

The issue of gender-based violence is one that will be considered at the General Convention as it continues to meet in Austin.

## **WEB review**

**+++ President will seek second term** - Ireland's President Michael D Higgins has confirmed he will seek a second term as head of state. Mr Higgins said he is to offer himself as an independent candidate when the Ministerial Order for a Presidential Election is made later in the year.

[https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/michael-d-higgins-to-  
seek-second-term-as-irish-president-1-8562424](https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/michael-d-higgins-to-seek-second-term-as-irish-president-1-8562424)

**+++ Unionists will not support new police body** - The Ulster Unionists will not support the new body set up to investigate Troubles-related deaths as it “will ignore the majority of terrorist victims,” Doug Beattie has said. Mr Beattie said the £150 million needed to fund the Historical Investigations Unit (HIU) would be better spent resourcing the legacy work being carried out by the PSNI, rather than creating a “parallel” police force.

[https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/crime/ulster-unionists-  
oppose-parallel-police-body-1-8562961](https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/crime/ulster-unionists-oppose-parallel-police-body-1-8562961)

**+++ Catholic priest spat on at Orange march in Scotland**

-A priest was spat upon and several of his parishioners

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Page 14

July 11 2018

subjected to “vile abuse” after a Protestant march went past their church in Glasgow. Canon Tom White had just finished celebrating the Saturday evening Mass at St Alphonsus church when the Orange parade approached. The Archdiocese of Glasgow says Canon White and his parishioners left defenceless after police who had been guarding the church.

**+++ South Sudan high-level talks** are not enough to secure peace, warns new report from Christian Aid, published on the country's Independence Day. CMS urges - Remember the new primate of South Sudan, Archbishop Justin Arama, who must guide the Church at this time of crisis, and courageously seek the peace of South Sudan in all his interactions. Pray for provision, protection and discernment.

<https://mediacentre.christianaid.org.uk/south-sudans-high-level-talks-are-not-enough-to-secure-peace-warns-new-report/>

**+++ Mission to Seafarers** - Recently MtS coordinated the safe passage home of an abandoned crew and ship. Work such as this cannot be possible without the support from the industry, general public and other NGO/governmental organisations. Follow our latest campaigns <https://bit.ly/2N4aXgO> [#charitytuesday](#)

**+++ L'Arche London to celebrate at Westminster Cathedral.** L'Arche invites - “Join us as we celebrate 40 years of L'Arche London on Saturday 14 July at a special celebration service at Westminster Cathedral. Book your free place here:” <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/40-years->

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aff=ebdssbdestsearch ...](https://www.google.com/search?q=of-larche-london-tickets-47549608158?aff=ebdssbdestsearch...)

## News briefs

**+++Motorcyclist William Dunlop - A Service of**  
Thanksgiving will be held at Garryduff Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, today for the life of William Dunlop, who was tragically killed on Saturday in County Dublin. Rev John Kirkpatrick, minister of Portrush Presbyterian Church - who was minister of Garryduff Presbyterian from 1987-1993 and is one of the chaplains to the Motorcycle Union of Ireland and knows the family well – will be leading the service. He also officiated at the funerals of William’s uncle and father.

**+++ Irish methodists in South Africa.** A young members World Development team is currently visiting and blogging at -

<https://8methodistsexploresouthafrica.wordpress.com/>

**+++ Memories from the archives -** “While the Fermoy Church of Ireland Union of Parishes saw the institution of a new rector, when Reverend Alan Marley took over the running of the union, stretching from Glenville to Mitchelstown and from Ballyhooly to Knockmourne, near Conna. Christ Church, Fermoy was packed for the occasion, where chief celebrant was the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Rev Roy Warke. Rev Marley was previously head of the chaplaincy team at Aylsebury Prison, England and arrived in Fermoy with his wife Ann and one month old daughter, Siobhan Catherine.”The Avondhu newspaper, July 9,2018

July 11 2018

<https://avondhupress.ie/memories-from-the-archives-july-1997/>

**+++The film Mary Magdalene is available as a digital download.** A reminder there's an excellent free, official companion booklet from [@damarismedia](#) and [@MothersUnion](#) <http://www.mothersunion.org/mary-magdalene>

**+++Support for Canadian church magazine** - The annual appeal for the Church of Canada's national magazine, the Anglican Journal, raised \$479,956.76 CAD (approximately £275,500 GBP) last year.



July 11 2018