



An Post to issue new set of stamps to mark World Meeting of Families

An Post, Ireland's national postal service, will issue a new set of stamps to commemorate the upcoming World

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Meeting of Families 2018 which takes place in Dublin from 21 to 26 August. The new stamps were introduced in the latest issue of the quarterly An Post booklet *The Collector* and will be issued on 26 July.

The two new stamps – one an image of Pope Francis, who will visit Ireland to attend the events of WMOF 2018, and the other an image of a family walking on a beach – and first day covers are designed by Vermillion Design, based on Distillery Road, Dublin 3. The stamps will carry values of €1 and €1.50.

The commemorative stamps and the first day cover can be purchased on www.irishstamps.ie.

Pope Francis will visit the 9th World Meeting of Families which will take place in Dublin from 21–26 August. The 2018 theme is ‘The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World’. Held every three years, this major international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church.

The main events of WMOF2018 will take place in Dublin but related events, including the hosting of international groups, will take place all over the island of Ireland.

The following key moments make up WMOF2018:

- A National Opening on Tuesday 21 August which will take place simultaneously in each of the dioceses of Ireland;

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- A three day congress from 22-24 August in the RDS, Dublin;
- A Festival of Families on Saturday 25 August, comprising a reflective concert style event within a prayerful and joyful atmosphere, in which personal stories of faith will be shared by families from all continents;
- A Closing Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 26 August with thousands of people from Ireland and across the world.
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All 500,000 tickets for the Closing Mass, as well as tickets for the other World Meeting events are now booked out.

The full schedule for the World Meeting of Families and the itinerary for Pope Francis' visit, as well as information regarding transport and for those with accessibility requirements, can be found on www.worldmeeting2018.ie.

Glenageary parish celebrates 150th anniversary

Parishioners past and present filled St Paul's Church, Glenageary, yesterday (Sunday July 8) to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the building. The service, which took place 150 years to the hour after Archbishop Richard Chenevix Trench conducted the consecration, was celebrated by the second longest serving Rector of the parish, Archdeacon Gordon Linney and the preacher was former parishioner, the Very Revd Gregory Dunston, Dean of Armagh.



A number of local public representatives and visitors from other local churches were in attendance and were welcomed by the Rector, the Revd Gary Dowd. The communion setting was specially written for the day by St Paul's organist and choir director, Nathan Barrett. The choir also sang the anthems 'The Heavens are Telling' by Hayden and 'The Hallelujah Chorus' by Handel.

Following the service a tree was planted in the church grounds by Holly, a granddaughter of Deirdre Moppett who had been very heavily involved in the parish and with the early stages of the planning of the 150th anniversary commemorations until her death last year. Guests then enjoyed a garden party with food and entertainment for all ages.

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In his sermon, Dean Dunston, looked back to the centenary of St Paul's in 1968 which he described as a tumultuous year with the Prague Spring, protests in Paris, the Vietnam War was at its height and the civil rights movement was starting in Northern Ireland.

The parish produced a history for the centenary and he suggested that while it reproduced parish records and parish matters there was barely a mention of events in the wider world. There was little reference to World War I or the Emergency and not a hint of the changing Ireland of the time.

Twenty-five years later, at the 125th anniversary, the parish production looked wider. The old mind set was dying, he said, but today's world could not be imagined with the internet for everyone, the secularisation of Irish society and its diversity and the emergence of 'strong man' politics.

"This is the world in which we are to be a 'royal priesthood'," he said, referring to the second reading [1 Peter 2: 1-5, 9-10]. He said the essence of priesthood was to do things on behalf of God, to mediate between God and his people.

"We are to mediate Christ in his Kingdom and to the people of St Paul's, Glenageary, Dublin and the Ireland of today. And then our focus shifts from St Paul's the building to the parish and the people of St Paul's as part of God's Church serving Christ in God's world and serving God's world for Christ's sake," he stated.

Mrs Caroline Welby in Burundi

The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Burundi, the Bishop of the Diocese of Bujumbura and the wives of Bishops of different Dioceses have extended warm welcome to Mrs Caroline Welby the spouse of his Grace Justin Welby the Archbishop of Canterbury in UK.

Mrs Caroline Welby has declared that her visit aims to share time of prayer and fellowship with the spouses of Bishops of the Anglican Church of Burundi. Discussion on peace and reconciliation will also be on the agenda.

The Spouses of Bishops of Burundi and presidents of Mothers' Union will have opportunity to be trained on how they can contribute to peace building and reconciliation.

Pope Paul VI to be proclaimed a saint in October

Pope Francis has announced that Blessed Paul VI will be proclaimed a saint on Sunday, October 14th in the Vatican.



Pope Paul VI, who had the task of closing the Second Vatican Council in 1965, will be canonized in St Peter's

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Square together with Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, and another four saints of charity, during the Synod of Bishops in the Vatican.

Pope Paul VI was born Giovanni Battista Montini in 1897. He was ordained a priest in May 1920, and elected as Pope in June 1963. He died at the papal residence of Castelgandolfo on August 6th 1978, after serving as pope for 15 years.

At a General Audience on March 16th 1966, he explained that 'holiness is within everyone's reach' and that we only need two elements in order to become saints: 'the grace of God and good will'.

Paul VI was beatified in 2014 after a first miracle was attributed to him.

Jimmy Carter: 'Jesus would approve of gay marriage' but not abortions

Jimmy Carter has claimed Jesus would "approve" of same-sex marriage but would oppose abortions.

Speaking on HuffPost Live, the 93-year-old former Democrat US president said: "I think Jesus would encourage any love affair if it was honest and sincere and was not damaging to anyone else and I don't see that gay marriage damages anyone else."

Mr Carter - who describes himself as a born-again Christian and teaches Sunday school classes at Maranatha Baptist



Church in Georgia - also spoke about his newly released book titled *A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety*.

The former leader, who served as president from 1977-1981, added that he would "struggle" to be pro-choice.

"I have a hard time believing that Jesus would approve abortions unless it was because of rape or incest or if the mother's life was in danger," Mr Carter said.

However, he added that he didn't question abortion's illegality when he was President: "My oath of office was to obey the Constitution and the laws of this country as interpreted as the Supreme Court, so I went along with that."

The landmark *Roe v Wade* decision was made by the United States Supreme Court in 1973 - four years before Mr Carter took office, legalising abortions in the US.

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Meanwhile, on Tuesday President Donald Trump nominated federal appeals court judge Brett Kavanaugh to the US Supreme Court.

If confirmed by the US Senate, Mr Kavanaugh will replace long-serving conservative Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was a swing vote in favour of abortion rights.

Mr Kennedy's retirement sparked fears that the Supreme Court would roll back abortion rights for women in the US.

While Mr Kavanaugh has never publicly revealed his stance on abortion, he recently voted against giving an undocumented teenager access to an abortion while in custody.

WEB review

+++St Patrick's Cathedral programme for Heritage Week - is now live! This year they are hosting; music, talks, bellringing, family workshops and an Instagram evening! All free, all welcome! They ask participants to register via the website. Details of all events here, <https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/heritage-week-2018-at-saint-patricks-cathedral/>

+++Charles Woods Summer School Tickets for events - can be purchased at visitarmagh.com/charleswood

Peruse the Festival programme at <http://www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/latest-news/>

+++ Be the winds of change for peace - WCC invites member churches, faith-based communities, and civil

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society organizations around the world to join together for a week of prayer for just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Start preparing for the World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel, 16-23 September 2018, with the resource package "Youth and Children: Raising Hope and Making Change" <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/public-witness/peace-building-cf/youth-and-children-raising-hope-and-making-change-world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel-2018/>

+++Inspire magazine - Luke shows how Hope comes full cycle ... <https://www.inspiremagazine.org.uk/stories>

News briefs

+++Obit - Capt Dennis Oxley C.A. died on Saturday 7th July at the Grange Care Home in Tewksbury. Dennis had been commissioned 68 years this July and lived a long life in service of God. During the 1980's and 90's Dennis worked around Portadown and then in Limerick Diocese. RIP Dennis.

+++Prayer Book launch at Knock - You are invited to St John's Rest & Care Centre in Knock Shrine on Saturday, July 14 at 1.30pm to see Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam diocese launch the beautiful & inspirational 'Knock Prayer Book' by Fr Richard Gibbons

+++Happy smiles - Street children are taking part in an Abaana Street Reach programme in Uganda. A group of young adults from Lisburn Cathedral are preparing to travel

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to Uganda on July 21 to work with Abaana projects in Kampala and Gulu. Read more at bit.ly/2ubUUXI

+++PCI global mission worker in Zambia - Your prayers are sought for Diane Cusick as she works with teachers in the Early Childhood Development centres. Pray for encouragement for the teachers in their spiritual growth through Bible studies & discussions. <http://bit.ly/2cgVbSa>

+++Priest celebrates 90th birthday and 64 years ministry - A great gathering of the Farrelly and Mackin Families joined with Fr. Phonsie Mackin in Kingscourt Parish on July 9 to celebrate his 90th birthday and 64 years as a priest of Meath diocese. Ad multos annos.

+++A true hero - Cub Scout Leader and cave diver John Volanthen played a crucial role in the extraordinary Thai cave rescue. Please reflect on the brave and selfless team effort, especially Saman Gunan who lost his life in the pursuit of helping others.

+++NICAV's data protection FAQs - Concerned about providing monitoring information to funders under GDPR? Read NICVA's Data protection FAQs to find out how to share data safely and appropriately <http://ow.ly/v3Lm30kSyjt>

+++Inspire magazine - Luke shows how Hope comes full cycle ... <https://www.inspiremagazine.org.uk/stories>

+++Four new bells have arrived at Glenstall Abbey - They are named Benedict, Scholastica, Joseph and

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Columba and will be blessed at the start of Mass on Wednesday 11 July, St Benedict's Day.

+++Annual Boyne Sunday Service - On last Sunday morning worshippers at Shankill Parish, Belfast were joined by the Officers and Brethren of No.9 District L.O.L. and the Officers and Sisters of No 4 District W.L.O.L. for their annual Boyne Sunday Service. Nelson McCausland was the guest preacher and the members of Shankill Road Defenders Flute Band led the parade.

+++Belfast Cathedral job opportunity - A Visitor Welcome Assistant (part-time - 6 months temporary position)

“Over the past few years, St Anne's Cathedral has gained a growing reputation as a major tourist attraction in the City of Belfast. We're offering the opportunity to get involved in an exciting and expanding team, to support us as we open our doors to visitors from Belfast and further afield.” The role will require flexible working on a rotational basis between 9am – 5pm. To request an application form please contact admin@belfastcathedral.org
<http://www.belfastcathedral.org/home/staff-vacancies/>



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