



## **The Church of Ireland's RC Bees**

The Representative Body of the Church of Ireland (RCB) has recently taken delivery of three hives of honey-bees to its offices in Rathmines, and the Church of Ireland Theological Institute has received four hives for its grounds. Ms Fern Jolley, Property Officer, worked with the Dublin

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County Beekeepers' Association to choose suitable spots for the hives to be placed, so that the bee keeper can care for them during the year as they settle in to their new homes.

## **These projects and initiatives are part of the Church of Ireland's Environmental Charter**

The RCB has also signed up as a business member of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. This plan is open to all businesses: no need to have bees at the office to sign up, but simply agree to undertake some actions to welcome and encourage pollinators and pollinator-friendly habitats, and you'll be sent a certificate to display and added to the list of supporters on the website at [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)

Actions can be logged and mapped online to track new pollinator-friendly habitats being created by community groups, businesses, councils, schools, and individuals. For its initial actions, the RCB will be planting pollinator-friendly shrubs and herbs and has signed up to a pesticide plan, under which pesticides will be used only sparingly and never on flower-rich areas or pollinator nesting sites. The RCB's actions are part of an ongoing and growing movement across the Church of Ireland to protect the environment and its creatures – from graveyards in Myross, Co. Cork, to churchyards in Co. Wicklow.

These projects and initiatives are part of the Church of Ireland's Environmental Charter, passed by the General Synod in 2015, which calls all members of the Church to the duty of environmental stewardship of God's creation, locally, nationally and internationally.

## **Cork chaplaincy link in Canada - Ireland healthcare training**

Earlier this year, ACPE (Ireland) Ltd, the professional multi-faith body for healthcare chaplaincy training, together with CASC (Canadian Association for Spiritual Care) formally signed an Agreement of Reciprocity at the CASC Conference at Deerhurst Resort, Ontario.

The President of CASC, the Rev Elaine Nagy, and the Chairperson of ACPE (Ireland), the Rev Bruce Pierce (Director of Education Northridge House at St Luke's Charity, Cork), signed this innovative agreement on behalf of their respective bodies.

**The accord will facilitate an interchange between Irish and Canadian students and supervisors and is the first intercontinental agreement of its kind.**

Bruce has the unique privilege of being a member of both bodies, having trained previously in Toronto. The agreement acknowledges the full mutual recognition of CPE programmes and CPE supervisory status.

The journey to this important event took four years and it was celebrated with delight by both bodies. ACPE (Ireland) joins five other American professional bodies holding a similar relationship with CASC and this was acknowledged in the presence of the chairpersons of each body.

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## **Maynooth meeting elects first female president of International Federation of Catholic Universities**

At the conclusion of the 26th General Assembly Meeting in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, the International Federation of Catholic Universities elected its first female president.

Dr Isabel Capeloa Gil is the Rector of the Catholic University of Portugal, a university with 12,000 students across 18 faculties, schools and institutes.

The host of this year's assembly, Rev Professor Michael Mullaney, President of Saint Patrick's College, welcomed this historic election and wished Dr Capeloa Gil every success in her term of office.

In her acceptance address Dr Capeloa Gil said she will "work to make the power of the few the strength of the many".

This year's General Assembly took place from 23 to 27 July on the theme 'Catholic Universities, Working in Solidarity as Responsible Agents from the Local to the Global'. Over 200 university presidents, vice-presidents and international development officers attended the conference which was held for the first time at Saint Patrick's College.

The Assembly discussed how to bring Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter of 2015, *Laudato Si'* on care for our common home, into the very heart of this global network of

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third-level institutions by addressing issues linked to the social responsibility of Catholic universities.

The meeting in Maynooth agreed to hold the next General Assembly of IFCU in Boston College, USA in 2021.

## **Mothers' Union in Burundi Celebrates 70 years**

“At the beginning, we did not understand much of what it was to join a movement of women and the importance of what we were supposed to learn from it. Women who served the Lord as missionaries in the 40s kept calling us to join. Since the time we have enrolled our life has completely changed and we now bear marks of Mothers' Union in our hearts”, said 83 years old Mrs. Marcienne Wimana a passionate member of Mothers' Union.

From 1948, Mothers' Union Burundi has played a key role in transforming individuals, families and communities by equipping women with basic skills required for their daily responsibilities. The first programmes on which the movement focused were the sharing of the Good News of Christ, weaving, sewing and cooking.

“We had been taught how to look after the members of our families and the Gospel we heard has transformed our lives so that our reputation within communities was such that many women from every corner and different denominations joined the program. Some of them joined the Anglican Church and then became members of Mothers Union. That's how the movement kept growing”, says 86 years old Emilienne Mudende.

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Mothers' Union has been at the forefront of tackling illiteracy in Burundi through its Literacy and Development Programme that has been an unprecedented success. Now the Literacy and Financial Education Programme is facilitating the setting up of small businesses and the management of savings and assets.

Advocacy has also been an important part of Mothers' Union's contribution as it has engaged with social issues, among them gender based violence.

Their contribution to the education of children and economic development, and their commitment to end gender based violence is something that members of Mothers' Union can be proud of.

This August Mothers' Union will be celebrating 70 years of service to families, Church and country.

### **Visit of Mrs. Caroline Welby to Burundi**

The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Burundi along with the Bishop of the Diocese of Bujumbura and the wives of Bishops of different Dioceses recently extended a warm welcome to Mrs. Caroline Welby the wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The visit provided an opportunity for shared times of prayer and fellowship with the wives of the Bishops in their role as Presidents of Mothers' Union in their respective dioceses, as well as training on issues of peace building and reconciliation.

## News briefs

### +++New editor of Cork C of I Diocesan

**Magazine** - The new editor is Isobel Dunne, who said: 'I am delighted to be taking on the role of editor of the Diocesan



Magazine. I am looking forward to working alongside the Diocesan Magazine committee as well as building a warm and professional rapport with all contributors to the magazine.'

Bishop Colton, welcoming Mrs Dunne's appointment, said: 'I am delighted that Isobel is taking on this role in relation to our Diocesan Magazine, which is still an important and popular element in our diocesan communications work.'

+++**Glendalough rector retires** - Parishioners of Castlemacadam, Ballinatone and Aughrim gathered on Sunday (July 29) to bid a fond farewell to their Rector of almost 23 and a half years. Canon George Butler is retiring after many years of service to and with the Glendalough parish.

Canon Butler's final service took place outdoors in the beautiful rural surroundings of Ballinatone Churchyard for the annual animal blessing service. Not only was he joined by his wife Shirley, family members and parishioners from all three churches, but dogs of all sorts and sizes. Animals



**Canon George Butler and his family at Ballinatone Church. L-R Helen Gubbins, Mark Butler, Shirley Butler and Canon George Butler.**

present, along with those in the wild, were blessed and there were prayers for creation.

Among the hymns celebrating creation, was the Makem and Clancy classic 'A Place in the Choir' sung by Canon Butler and his son Andrew with Andrew's wife Helen Gubbins on the keyboard. This, the Rector declared, was a great start to his professional singing career.

In his sermon, Canon Butler said that the service, which has taken place in Ballinatone for about 20 years, was not just about cats, dogs, cows and sheep but the whole of creation and a call to remember our part in looking after the environment for all who come after us.



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He thanked his parishioners for all they had done through the years. “Thank you all for your support. I have really treasured and cherished the good community we have in the whole group of parishes,” he commented. “I have had a great many privileges in my life and one of them has been serving in this group of parishes. I’ve been with you through the good and the bad times and I hope that you’ve found that I’ve been of some little help and that you have appreciated the privilege I’ve had being there with you.”

He said the parishioners had been very good to both himself and Shirley at times when they needed support and this should not be taken for granted. “You have lived and shown Christian concern. It’s about looking after each other in good times and bad and living out the Gospel. So a big thank you for your warm welcome and for keeping us and supporting me in my ministry,” he added.

He thanked his wife for her support and said they had worked as a team. He also paid tribute to his family for their encouragement.

Ballinatone church warden, Mark Galvin, wished Canon Butler well as he and Shirley embarked on the next chapter of their lives. He, Alan Pierce, Parish Reader and church warden in Aughrim, and Varan Radford, parishioner in Ballinatone made a presentation to George while Shirley was presented with a bouquet of flowers. Parishioners enjoyed lunch afterwards in the parish hall.

**+++Holy Land pilgrimage** - The Rev Canon David Humphries, rector of Kilbride Parish since 2016, has been leading pilgrimages to the Holy Land for more than 20 years.

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His next pilgrimage, based in Jerusalem and Galilee, runs from May 14-24 2019, and he invites you to consider joining him on this spiritual journey.



The tour is organised under the auspices of McCabe Pilgrimages, a company David has been travelling with since 2006.

All David's pilgrimages take in the main Holy Land places, Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives, Via Dolorosa, Jericho, Mount Carmel, Capernaum, Caesarea Philippi and Nazareth. Last year, the tour included Samaria and Jacob's Well. Varying the itinerary means that if people chose to come on more than one pilgrimage, they will see a lot more.

David said it is the land that draws him back year after year. "For me it is God's land. Many times He says in the Old Testament, 'this is My Land.' That's what I feel," he said.

On the pilgrimage there are opportunities to meet local people, and the itinerary includes a visit to the Jeel al-Amal School and Boys Home in Bethany, home to 100 boys from Jerusalem and from towns and villages in the Palestinian territories. Many are orphans or have endured terrible domestic problems.

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“Here we have Christian and Muslim boys being taught about their faith,” said David. “They are protected from things going on outside and are being brought up together which is a miracle. There are very few places in Israel where that happens.”

The cost of David’s next pilgrimage in May is £2,175 per person, sharing a twin bedded room. “This covers flights, transfers, accommodation, food, entry to all the sites on the itinerary and even tips. “When people return home afterwards they say that it is definitely worth the money,” said David.

Anyone interested in learning more about this pilgrimage should visit David’s [Holy Land website](#) or email David at [wdhumphries@hotmail.com](mailto:wdhumphries@hotmail.com).



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