



Annual Service of Remembrance for the children of the Bethany Home



Doves are released at the Service of Remembrance for children of the Bethany Home.

The annual Service of Remembrance for the children of the Bethany Home in Dublin took place in Mount Jerome

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Cemetery on Friday afternoon (June 29). The service saw the unveiling of a new flat memorial stone on which the names of 70 additional Bethany children and one mother who died in childbirth are inscribed.

The new stone has been added to the memorial which was unveiled in April 2014 and which bears the names of 222 children who, researchers discovered, had died in the home. For the first time, the memorial also recognises the mothers of Bethany Home and bears the name of a mother who died in childbirth at the home.

The service, which also remembered children from the Smyly Homes, Miss Carr's Home, the Magdalen Asylum and Irish Church Missions, was led by Canon David Gillespie. It was attended by members of the Bethany Home Survivors' Group as well as survivors of other mother and baby homes. Also present was Deputy Mary Lou McDonald and Cllr Cathleen Carney Boud, who represented the Lord Mayor.

After the service a lone piper led the congregation to the memorial site where the Deputy Lord Mayor paid tribute to Derek Leinster and all the survivors for their untiring work in campaigning for recognition. She expressed disappointment that the Bethany survivors had not been included in the Mother and Baby Home Redress Scheme.

Deputy McDonald said that no apology could undo the hurt that had been done to women and children under the watchful eye of the State, but that the State was causing additional hurt to survivors who are Protestant. She called

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on the State to face this hurt and treat every victim the same.

Dr Niall Meehan of Griffith College, who has supported the Bethany Survivors, said mothers came from all parts of the island and were forced to hide their shame. Their children lived in these homes and many died in them, he added. He suggested that without the work of Derek Leinster and John Thompson no one would know about the mothers and babies.

Derek Leinster thanked Niall Meehan and Mary Lou McDonald for their support. Joyce McSharry, another Bethany survivor, said they had been fighting for justice for over 20 years adding that they only wanted what survivors of other homes had received. Paul Redmond who was born in Castlepollard Mother and Baby Home said that the motivation of the State had been to separate survivors. However, he added, they stood by the memorial as a united community.

Proceedings concluded when survivors Joyce McSharry, Noeleen Belton and Mary Lou Hawkins released of doves in memory of those who had died in the mother and baby homes.

300 pilgrims join in Clogher Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The annual Clogher Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will depart this Friday 6 July with 300 pilgrims travelling to the Marian Shrine in France.

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The pilgrimage, which will continue until Wednesday 11 July, will be led by Diocesan Administrator of Clogher, Monsignor Joseph McGuinness, who will be



joined pilgrimage director Mr Brian Armitage and spiritual director Fr Noel McGahan PP, Clogher and Eskra.

The pilgrimage to Lourdes is a central feature of the Clogher Diocesan life and is especially important to the sick of the diocese. The 300 pilgrims will be accompanied by sixty-three members of the diocesan youth ministry organisation, Clogher don Óige, who will assist the pilgrims in a variety of ways and add their own special contribution to the pilgrimage experience.

During the six day pilgrimage, the Clogher pilgrims will take part in various liturgies, including the celebration of Mass each day, a torchlight procession on the esplanade in front of the world-famous basilica on Saturday evening, a Eucharistic Procession on Sunday, together with the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and other

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devotions. The Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated by the Clogher pilgrims on Tuesday next, 10 July.

This year's pilgrimage will also place a special emphasis on the family, marking the forthcoming World Meeting of Families in Dublin this August. A special Family Mass will be celebrated in Saint Bernadette's Church, near the shrine, on the morning of Monday 9 July.

Speaking ahead of the pilgrimage, Monsignor McGuinness said that the intentions of all the people of the diocese will be included the daily prayers of the pilgrims at the shrine and he has asked those at home to, in turn, accompany the pilgrims with their prayers. Lourdes, a small market town lying in the foothills of the Pyrenees in southern France, rose to prominence in 1858 due to the Marian apparitions seen by the then fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, who was later canonised. Today, Lourdes hosts around six million visitors every year from all corners of the world. It is the most popular pilgrimage site for Irish people outside our country and its ongoing popularity has transformed Lourdes into the second most important centre of tourism in France, second only to Paris, and the third most important site of international Catholic pilgrimage after Rome and the Holy Land.

Down Cathedral choral scholarships on offer

Music has always been a key feature in the Cathedral worship alongside a very dedicated choir, superb organ and excellent acoustics.

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With the very generous assistance of the local Frackleton Trust, the opportunity is offered to apply for a new choral scholarship scheme which starts in September 2018. This is targeted at young singers between 17 and 25 years old who would really like to develop their musical skills.

The successful candidates will work with the existing very experienced and loyal Cathedral choir of mixed voices.

The choral scholars will benefit from:

- Financial support
- Regular performance opportunities
- Experience in traditional and modern choral repertoire
- Vocal training
- Improved sight reading and aural skills
- Enhanced musical awareness

Closing date is Friday, August 17.

Interested? For more information and an application form please contact:

Michael McCracken, Director of Music, Down Cathedral

M: 07773 846028. Email:

mikemusic.mccracken@gmail.com

Belfast choir to sing in Portsmouth Cathedral

The choir of St Polycarp's, Finaghy, will visit Portsmouth Cathedral for the first time later this month.

This will be the choir's eighth annual summer tour which last year took members to Westminster Abbey (where they also sang in 2013 and 2014) and which in previous years

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has also taken them to the chapels of three Cambridge Colleges, Chester Cathedral and twice to Dublin.



The Choir of St Polycarp's pictured in Westminster Abbey during its 2017 tour. This year the choir will sing in Portsmouth Cathedral.

The choir will sing Choral Evensong in Portsmouth Cathedral on Monday July 23 and Tuesday July 24, led by St Polycarp's Director of Music, Simon Neill.

Paying tribute to the choir, Simon said: "We in St Polycarp's are greatly indebted to members who give so freely of their time each week to provide a high standard of music for worship, concerts and broadcasts.

"We are all looking forward very much to visiting the historic city of Portsmouth."

Northern Ireland GPs welcome Government move to ban "gay conversion" therapy



GPs in Northern Ireland have welcomed a Government move to ban "gay conversion" therapy.

The controversial practice is to be banned under a new £4.5 million LGBT action plan outlined by the UK Government. It states: "We will consider all legislative and non-legislative options to prohibit promoting, offering or conducting conversion therapy."

The Northern Ireland branch of the The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) welcomed the move. RCGP chairwoman Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard said Northern Ireland GPs have been at the forefront of condemning conversion therapy.

"GPs are highly trained experts in the whole body and mind, and the GP consultation is a safe space where our patients - regardless of their sexual orientation - are guaranteed a non-judgmental conversation during which the GP, working with the patient, will advise on the best care, tailored to them as an individual," she said.

"The RCGP has been at the forefront in condemning conversion therapy. Indeed, we were the only medical Royal College to have co-signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2015, which was updated last year.

"Our College in Northern Ireland has also won widespread acclaim for its pioneering guidelines on the care of LGBT patients.

"Being LGBT is not a disease, it is not a mental illness and it doesn't need a 'cure'. Any proclamations to the contrary risk causing harm to our gay and trans patients' physical and mental health and well-being, as well as perpetuating discrimination in society."

Baby Jesus 'held in detention' during US church immigration protest

A church in the US has voiced its opposition to an immigration policy introduced during the Trump administration by placing figurines of baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph "in detention".

Leaders erected fencing around the statues on a lawn outside the Episcopalian Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis to remind people the family was "homeless" when they escaped King Herod's murderous plot by fleeing to Egypt.

Dean and rector, Rev Stephen Carlsen said: "We will not stand by while children are being taken from their parents,

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and families are being taken from our communities and congregations.

"People of good will and faith must not allow this to continue.

"We must not be divided by race, language or culture, but reach out to care for our neighbours-because every family is sacred."

Described as a "zero tolerance" approach, the policy was criticised for resulting in thousands of migrant children being separated from their parents at the United States' border with Mexico.

Last month, President Donald Trump issued an executive order trying to ensure incoming families were not forcibly split up.

Rev Lee Curtis, who had the idea for the demonstration, told NBC News: "Families, all families, every family, is holy,

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and we hope and pray that families who are seeking out a better life for their kids are afforded that opportunity.”

News briefs

+++World Cup shunned for Bishop Good's visit

The faith of the Rector of the Clondehorkey Parish Group was rewarded on Tuesday evening – the Feast of St Thomas – when his parishioners forsook the televised World Cup clash between England and Colombia and instead packed St Columba's Church in Cashel, to greet their Bishop, Rt Rev Ken Good. The Bishop was there to dedicate a number of gifts which had been presented to the church by members of the parish community.

Visiting and neighbouring clergy mingled with parishioners on a blisteringly hot evening in north Donegal. The gifts included a new sound system for the church – which was used during the service – and a number of church hymnals.

Bishop Good said those who donated the gifts to St Columba's in memory of loved ones were helping the people of their parish for years to come to focus on Christ and move from doubt to faith. “It's as important as that. Let's learn from Thomas. We need to commit ourselves as we dedicate these gifts to being with God's people regularly, to praise his name, because otherwise doubt may well increase in our hearts.”

Canon Irwin also expressed gratitude to the families who had donated the gifts. After the service, as the congregation enjoyed refreshments in the church, the Rector drew attention to three attractive clay wall plaques,

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mounted near the front of the church, which had been donated by the Muck 'n' Muffins Pottery Shop in Dunfanaghy and which acknowledged the generosity of the donor families.

+++Bicentenary celebrations at Tاونagh Parish Church

Tاونagh Parish Church, Riverstown, Co. Sligo, will be celebrating 200 years with a festival of events, from Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th August.

This will feature flower arrangements, a collection of local crafts and visual displays in the Church, 200 years of memorabilia in the Cooper Memorial Hall, and a genealogy and history of the parish, its clergy and parishioners.

Saturday 18th August:

Concert in Church with James Kilbane at 8pm, by ticket only. €15 each.

Sunday 19th August:

Service of Thanksgiving at 4pm in Church with video link to adjoining marquee. Preacher: the Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.

+++Wedding dresses, Christening robes and vintage cars

A Wedding Dress and Christening Robes Festival & Vintage Cars Display will take place at the Church of Ireland in Manorhamilton, to raise donations for church restoration, over the August bank holiday weekend. Saturday 4th / Sunday 5th / Monday 6th August 11am–5pm daily.

Refreshments available

All are welcome to this special community event

+++Clogher institution

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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The institution of The Revd Johnny McLoughlin as Rector of Aghavea Parish, was conducted by The Bishop of Clogher, Right Revd John McDowell, on Friday evening, 29th June, the Feast of St. Peter. Revd McLoughlin comes to Clogher Diocese from neighbouring Armagh Diocese, where he was Rector of Clonfeacle, Derrygortreavy and Eglisk parish. The lessons were read by Mr. David Atwell, Parish Reader and Revd Margaret Pringle, Non Stipendiary Minister, who conducted services in Aghavea during the vacancy. The preacher was Revd Robert Boyd, Rector of Glendermott and Newbuildings, Diocese of Derry and Raphoe.

+++Choral concert and Mass in Enniskillen

Saturday 7th July – Lunchtime Concert by Choir of Corpus Christi College, Oxford in St Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen 1.00pm. The choir, under the direction of Organ Scholars, Matthew Murphy and Theodore Hill, will sing a wide range of choral favourites, spanning several centuries and composers. Entry is free but there will be a chance to make donations. The choir will sing Mass in St. Michael’s Church at 6.00pm on the same day.



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