



Down & Dromore bishop challenges faithful to be in the world but not of it



In his 22nd Presidential Address as bishop, the Rt Revd Harold Miller told Down and Dromore Synod that to be faithful to Jesus Christ in this place and at this time, “we are called to be ‘in the world’, and indeed, a blessing to the world, but not ‘of the world’.”

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He was speaking in the beautifully refurbished Magheralin Parish Church which hosted the Diocesan Synod on Thursday 14 June, 2018.

In exploring the relationship between the church and the world, the bishop described a society moving away from God and the accepted beliefs of the Christian faith whilst the churches, having lost their authority, were at risk of conforming to society and straying from biblical truth.

This challenging environment was not a new phenomenon in the history of the church, and Bishop Miller reminded synod of the fourth century Saint, Athanasius, who almost single-handedly rescued it from going down a road into error.

The bishop said that, in his view, “we are increasingly in a Western world where orthodox Christian faith will be, like Athanasius, ‘contra mundum’” (against the world). He believed that believers in the truth of the Gospel would be in the minority rather than the majority.

The bishop noted that this had already come into sharp focus in Ireland with the rejection in two referenda, of the teaching and authority of the Roman Catholic Church. Bishop Harold cautioned, however, that “we need to recognise that what is happening is not just about one expression of Western institutional Christianity but probably about all expressions.”

The Church of Ireland was no exception and it, along with the other major churches which emerged from the Reformation would have to decide how to respond, believe and live in an entirely new kind of world and context.

Bishop Miller then explored the New Testament calling to be ‘in the world but not of it.’

He explained that “to be ‘in the world’ means that we are not separatist or overly-pietistic. It means we happily live out our lives in the context of the everyday, carrying with us, and sharing with others, the presence and message of Christ.”

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He urged Christians to be present in all areas of life and work and also to make praying for the world an important part of public worship.

He continued: “The other way we are learning to be in the world is a real rediscovery of Anglican ethos: the fact that we are here to serve parishes, not gathered churches.” (The parish being a geographical area whose community the church serves.)

The bishop gave many examples of ways in which churches in the diocese were impacting their parishes and beyond and observed that “when churches resist the temptation to be self-serving and find their centre of gravity outside themselves they become energised, creative and even vibrant with growth.”

Turning to being not ‘of the world’ Bishop Miller emphasised that though it might appear negative, “the real meaning of not being ‘of the world’ is that we are people who have different priorities and different values, who are not moulded by the presuppositions of the world around us.” This would lead to radical and attractive living, something the world badly needed to see.

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He concluded: “We are in the world but not of it. In Latin, *pro Mundum* and *contra Mundum* at one and the same time. That is the genius of the Christian faith. To be distinct but involved, the same but different, and when we carry that role in the name of Christ, the blessings both to the world and us will be unimaginable. Blessings from the God who can do far more than we can ask, think or even imagine!”

The full text of Bishop Harold Miller’s Presidential Address is available here -

Derry Big Day wedding dress festival

The wedding dress worn by Lady Christine Eames when she married her husband, the former Church of Ireland Primate Lord Robin Eames on June 25th, 1966, will be among dozens on display in St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry, later this month when the Cathedral holds 'The Big Day' Wedding Dress Festival.

The festival – which will run from Thursday 21st until Saturday 30th of June – will feature more than 60 dresses belonging to parishioners, clergy wives and clergywomen, and women from the wider community. Among the highlights of the ten-day event will be wedding re-enactments at 12.30pm on Saturday 23rd and Saturday 30th June, when 'the bride' will make her way from the deanery to the Cathedral, preceded by up to 50 attendants – children dressed specially for the occasion.

The Cathedral choir and musicians will be there to provide suitable wedding music. In addition, on both Saturdays there will be a vintage car and motorcycle display in the Cathedral grounds. And the 'wedding planners' invite parents or grannies who have hidden their beautiful, 'worn-only-once' outfits in the back of their wardrobes to give them another airing as 'guests' at one of the weddings.

During the festival, wedding dresses through the decades will be displayed in different parts of the church, along with the fascinating stories behind each. Various areas of the Cathedral will be transformed to feature scenes from a

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wedding; visitors will be invited into the bride's 'home' to view the chaos there, see the bridal party at the bottom of the aisle and shiver at the winter wedding, before arriving for a sneak view of the room ready for the wedding breakfast. There will be additional features, such as 'mother and daughter' displays of dresses from both generations, and a trousseau – including underclothes – from the early 1900s.

The festival organisers are indebted to the various businesses, schools and friends in the community who have been generous in supporting 'The Big Day' Festival, by providing mannequins, flowers, decorations, furniture, artistic support and so much more.

'The Big Day' Wedding Dress Festival will be officially opened by Lady Eames in St Columb's Cathedral, on Thursday 21st June at 7pm, and all are welcome to attend.

Cork C of I chaplain's contribution to international healthcare book

On Thursday 7th June, at Birmingham Children's Hospital, a new paediatric chaplaincy book 'Paediatric Chaplaincy: principles, practices and skills' was formally launched as part of the annual conference of the Paediatric Chaplains' Network. This exciting new book edited by Paul Nash, Mark Bartel and Sally Nash draws the expertise of healthcare chaplains from around the world and different faith traditions to highlight best practice and skills for chaplains working with neonates, infants, children, young people and their families.

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Cork healthcare chaplain and clinical pastoral education supervisor the Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum (*left in photo*) contributed a chapter to this new volume on ministry amongst neonatal patients and those who cannot speak. Daniel, drawing on his experience as a healthcare chaplain at Cork University Maternity Hospital, sets out innovative ways to provide meaningful

pastoral care for babies and their families in the neonatal period.

The Rev George Handzo (Research & Quality, Healthcare Chaplaincy Network, USA) describes this new book as the 'now go-to teaching text and reference work in the field'.

Presenting a paper at the Paediatric Chaplains' Network Conference based on this work, Daniel highlighted the important role that chaplains have to play in a neonatal context when parents can experience much anxiety and uncertainty if their baby is ill.

Speaking at the launch Daniel said: 'I am immensely proud to have shared in this international volume on paediatric

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chaplaincy and to have brought the experience of ministry in the neonatal unit at Cork University Maternity Hospital to the international stage. Working alongside highly skilled colleagues I have experienced first hand the difference that meaningful spiritual care can have with our youngest patients. I hope that this work will be of interest to colleagues both in chaplaincy and other disciplines as together we care for babies and their families.'

Northern European Cathedrals' Conference

Registration for the Northern European Cathedral's Conference is now open.

This conference will take place between the 12th and 15th February 2019 inclusive in Dublin.

You may register on the official NECC 2019 website at: <https://www.necc2019.com>. On this especially dedicated website you will find all the information you need relating to the conference. The website will be updated on a regular basis with information as it is received. This information already includes the conference timetable and details of the venues in the city. It also includes a list of hotel accommodation in the area.

50 rooms at Jury's Hotel Christchurch have been blocked at a special rate. If you want to avail of this rate you will need to ring the reservation department at Jurys and quote NECC2019.

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Further information on the civic receptions and the biographies of the speakers will be included on the website as soon as the information becomes available.

Because of the nature of the conference the number of spaces is limited to 120 delegates on a first come first served basis so please register early.

Methodist Church calls Universal Credit roll out a 'car crash'

A roll out of the UK Government's flagship benefit programme has been described as a "slow car crash" by the Methodist Church in England and Wales, amid a damning report by the spending watchdog into Universal Credit (UC).

The National Audit Office (NAO) said the scheme had not delivered value for money, it had caused hardship for many people and its roll out was happening more slowly than intended.

Adding his criticism, policy adviser at The Methodist Church, Paul Morrison said: "What we've been watching is a slow car crash of a benefit roll out.

"The problem is that the people who are trapped in that car crash - the people who are being damaged - are not being listened to and are, at times, being straightforwardly ignored."

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A spokesman
at the
Department
for Work and
Pensions
(DWP)



insisted that
UC is "good

value for money", adding that evidence shows claimants
are "getting into work faster and staying in work longer".

Emma Revie from the Trussell Trust charity - which
supports hundreds of church-run foodbanks - said 70 per
cent of people they spoke to fell into debt making the
switch to UC.

She added: "In our experience, it's taking too long to sort
and - whilst it's being sorted out - hundreds of thousands
of being are being affected adversely.

"Many of them are ending up at our foodbanks requiring
emergency food..."

The NAO said UC - which is replacing six payments
including job seeker's allowance, tax credit and housing
benefit - cost more to administer than the previous benefits.

The DWP spokesman said: "Previous administrations
poured billions into an outdated system with a complex
myriad of benefits, which locked some people into cycles of
welfare dependency, whereas we are building a benefit
system fit for the 21st century, providing flexible, person-
centred support, with evidence showing Universal Credit

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claimants getting into work faster and staying in work longer."

Janani Luwum Church House handed over to Church of Uganda ahead of formal launch



Contractors hand over the newly completed Janani Luwum Church House to Archbishop Stanley Ntagali

A new commercial office block which has been built by the Church of Uganda as part of an investment strategy has been handed over by contractors. Archbishop Stanley Ntagali, the Primate of the Church of Uganda, will official launch and inaugurate the building on 24 August during its provincial assembly. But on Thursday, he was handed the keys to the completed Janani Luwum Church House, which



will become the headquarters of Equity Bank and other tenants. The lease fees will support the mission and ministry of the Province in the years ahead.

“He who began this good work is the One who has brought it to completion,”

Archbishop Stanley said on Thursday during the handover ceremony, in a quote from Philippians 1:6. The building has been named after Archbishop Janani Luwum who was martyred in 1977 and whose idea the project was, dating back to the early 1970’s.

“The concept for Church House as a commercial real estate enterprise began in 1965 and was originally to be built on Shimoni Road,” the Church of Uganda said on its website. “When the Bank of Uganda proposed to take over the

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Shimoni Road site, that property was exchanged for Plot 34 on Kampala Road in 1972.”

The project was beset with a number of delays, but went ahead in partnership with Equity Bank.

News briefs

+++Cathedral choral grants

Friends of Cathedral Music has given grants totaling £190,000 this year to the following Choral Foundations: St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, Auckland Cathedral, Arundel Cathedral, York Minster, Lichfield Cathedral, Newport Cathedral, St Alphege in Solihull, St Thomas-on-the-Bourne in Farnham, St Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral Aberdeen and Exeter Cathedral.

“As every year, applications for grants far outstripped funds, so do please spread the word and support us through subscriptions, donations or legacies. The delight of those institutions we have helped is a great reward for our efforts.”

+++Wichita Choir concert in St Canice's

There will be a wonderful concert presented by Wichita Falls First United Methodist Church Choir who join us from Texas. All are welcome to this beautiful choral performance. Cathedral admission fee applies. For more information contact St Canice's Cathedral on Facebook or by phone on 056-7764971

+++Toledo Choir's Irish tour

St. Charles Catholic Church will be one of seven Toledo diocese churches represented when the Toledo Pilgrimage Choir travels to Ireland to perform at different Catholic churches. The choir will travel to Ireland June 19 through 28 to sing for Mass at Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Galway Cathedral, Waterford Cathedral and Prince of Peace Parish. They will tour St. Patrick Cathedral, Dublin.

+++East Belfast Choral Connections

What a night of worship and celebration at the 'Choral Connections' evening! Altogether a phenomenal £475 was raised for the EBM - East Belfast Mission - congregation and church, all in honour of the late Margaret Ferguson. Thank you to everyone involved who made this night such a huge success, including East Belfast Mission Community Choir, Ballylesson Praise Group, Turas Choir, Mersey Street Presbyterian Church Choir and PS 150

+++Mission to Cork

Letter to the Irish Times: Sir, – Patsy McGarry's piece about Protestantism North and South was fascinating (["Republic's secularisation brings Protestant and Catholic churches closer"](#), [Analysis, June 12th](#)).

It brought me back to my Church of Ireland childhood in Waterford in the 1960s. It also went a way to explaining why I always think of Evangelical Christians as speaking with an Ulster accent. I remember a small but vociferous number of Northern Protestants in the city who were

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zealous and passionate about their religion. Sometimes others visited to preach to locals of different denominations.

These people were very serious and devout; they shunned worldly pleasures like alcoholic drink, but were often quite partial to cakes and buns. This was good for all concerned as the Protestant community boasted some excellent bakers.

A particular memory stands out, when my father took me to a community tea party to host an Ulsterman who mentioned in his address that he was about to leave his home to become a missionary.

With dramatic images in mind of pith helmets in the jungle, I approached him, cake in hand, and asked him somewhat tentatively where his mission would take him.

The reply was unexpected: “Cork”.– Yours, etc, Cherrie A Coghlan, Harrow

+++C of I seeks members for Consultative Group on Disability

The Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod would like to invite members of the Church of Ireland to submit expressions of interest to become a member of the Consultative Group on Disability. Applications are welcomed from individuals who have relevant experience, skills and knowledge in the area of disability, and could guide the Church of Ireland with its disability policies and practices. In particular, members of the Church of Ireland with disabilities, who can bring knowledge and expertise to this Group, are encouraged to submit an expression of interest.

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The Consultative Group will work to enhance the Church's welcome to all those with disabilities and to develop accessibility, communication, and best practice policies and practices. The Group will be available to advise and support parishes, dioceses and Church committees, with a particular focus on enabling active participation across the spiritual, social and community life of the Church. This may be by allowing ease of physical access, creating a suitable sensory environment for those with intellectual disabilities, or providing the necessary psychological and spiritual support for people with mental health issues.

Members of the Consultative Group should be prepared to work collaboratively and proactively to produce comment, briefings, and statements; to promote activities related to these briefings within the life of the Church, and to develop and submit responses, on behalf of the Church of Ireland, to relevant public consultations.

Please send expressions of interest, accompanied by an outline of your particular skills or experience, to Dr Catherine Smith, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, by 31st August 2018, or by email to catherine.smith@rcbdub.org



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