



Ecumenical event unites Chapel Royal and Sistine Chapel Choirs at Buckingham Palace



Buckingham Palace was the setting for a historic concert – in support of persecuted Christians from all denominations – that brought together the renowned choirs of the Chapel Royal and the Sistine Chapel.

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The Ecumenical Concert of the Choirs of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, and the Sistine Chapel took place in May, in the presence of HRH The Duchess of Gloucester.

The audience in the Ballroom of Buckingham Palace heard music of historical importance to the Sistine Chapel and the Chapels Royal, including pieces by Purcell, Weelkes, Palestrina, Parry, Byrd and Britten.

The two choirs performed earlier that day at Evensong, held at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, and led by Canon Paul Wright, Sub-Dean, HM Chapels Royal.

Both events highlighted the work of Aid to the Church in Need, the Catholic charity which supports persecuted and suffering Christians over the world – especially in the Middle East.

Christian persecution was also the theme of HRH The Prince of Wales's Easter video message this year, in which he said: "At this time, we think especially of those Christians who are suffering for their faith in so many parts of the world.

"I want to assure them that they are not forgotten and that they are in our prayers."

In his speech at last night's concert, Neville Kyrke-Smith, National Director, Aid to the Church in Need (UK), expressed his thanks for ACN being the focus of the event.

He added: "This concert is a great sign of support, not just for Christians in the Middle East, but for all communities who are trying to rebuild and who want to deepen bonds of trust and understanding."

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Aid to the Church in Need's priority Iraq project is support for 120,000 Christians and others from Nineveh and Mosul.

Having provided emergency help after they fled Daesh (ISIS), the charity is now – with the militants' defeated – enabling the communities to go back by rebuilding homes, churches, dispensaries and other centers.

In Syria, ACN is providing emergency and pastoral help to families in areas worst affected by violence including Damascus, Aleppo, Homs and elsewhere – food, shelter, and medicine – as well as pastoral aid.

Parishes raise almost £85,000 for hospice care

Hospice care in Northern Ireland and Co. Louth has benefitted from the generosity of Church of Ireland parishes in both Armagh and Down and Dromore.

Since 2014, the Diocese of Armagh has observed an Annual Hospice Sunday and in 2017, raised almost £11,300. Parishes in the Diocese of Down and Dromore also gave generously to the appeal, raising almost £12,000. The money raised to date has totalled almost £85,000.

These funds have been distributed to the following hospices: the Southern Area Hospice, Newry; the Northern Ireland Hospice, Belfast (which includes the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice); the Foyle Hospice, Londonderry; and North Louth Hospice.

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Depending on where the parish or parishes are located, the money raised by each parish throughout these dioceses has been given to its local hospice.

Armagh Diocese's Annual Hospice Sunday Appeal is co-ordinated each year by the Reverend Matthew Hagan, rector of Tynan, Aghavilly and Middletown Group of Parishes.

Mr Hagan commented: "All hospices throughout Northern Ireland depend greatly on the support of the public when it comes to raising much needed funding for their hospice on an annual basis. I am extremely pleased at the magnificent amount of money that has been raised for hospice care in Northern Ireland and in Co. Louth through the generosity of the parishioners throughout the Diocese of Armagh and the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

"I encourage other dioceses in the Church of Ireland to set up a similar initiative to support the wonderful hospice care afforded to those people in our communities who need this high level of care. I can assure the many parishioners in the Dioceses of Armagh and Down and Dromore that their generosity will undoubtedly benefit the excellent level of patient care in local hospices. My sincere thanks to everyone who has made a donation."

King's College Choir to visit Limerick

The Choir of King's College, Cambridge, will perform a concert to mark the 850th anniversary concert of St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, on Monday 16th July at 7.30pm.

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This will feature choral music from the choir's extensive repertoire, including music by Orlando Gibbons, Edward Elgar, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Judith Weir.

Tickets are available from www.uch.ie

A real bolt from the blue lights up C of I archive of the month

Another decade's worth of editions of the weekly newspaper,

St Mark's church, Ettagh, County Offaly.



the Church of Ireland Gazette, from 1924 to 1933, has just been digitized and uploaded online by the RCB Library, where they may be consulted as a freely-searchable resource. This means that all editions for the 70-year period between March 1856 (when the paper first appeared) up to and including the end of December 1933 are shared for all.

The RCB Library holds the only complete hard-copy run of this newspaper published weekly since 1856, and through

Ettagh Parish.

The congregation attending St. Mark's Church, Ettagh, at Morning Service lately, had a miraculous escape, the sacred edifice having been struck by lightning, which left its marks in many places. There were three flashes, the two first doing no damage, but the last, about 12.30, struck the tower, breaking a thick capping-stone off the corner, and hurling it down to the porch. The lightning evidently circled round the fabric externally and internally, for at intervals pieces of plaster and stone were dislodged, and the ground was much scored around; part of the chancel ridging was also broken, the sills of the windows inside splintered, the glass remaining untouched, while an umbrella was quite shattered. Mr. R. Reid, who was near a window, received a severe shock, from which he recovered after some time. His escape, with that of others near, was most providential, as the end of the pew where he sat was split. Mrs. Lee, wife of Canon Lee, felt the shock greatly while presiding at the organ. The organ-blower was knocked down by it. The congregation were most thankful there were no fatal results, and at the first opportunity, offered up in both parish churches their praises and thanksgivings to Almighty God for His mercies.

Report on lightning strike at St Mark's church, Ettagh, County Offaly, on Sunday, 21st June 1912.

incremental digitization has endeavoured to share its rich content with a worldwide audience. With 70 years now online and searchable, work is half-way done to complete the project to make the *Gazette* a completely searchable resource for in 2005 it became available as e-newspaper.

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For its June Archive of the Month slot, the Library has again teamed up with the historian Dr Miriam Moffitt who demonstrates the incredible detail to be uncovered in the pages of the *Gazette*, and its value for historical research, in a story about the miraculous escape of the congregation in St Mark's church, Etagh, County Offaly, when their church was struck by lightning during the Morning Service on Sunday, 21st June 1912.

The paper records how there were three great flashes, the third of which broke a capping stone on the church tower, smashing stained glass windows and even splitting a pew inside the church, causing all inside to feel the effects. While no-one was seriously injured, one man nearest to a shattered window was very shocked. The organist and rector's wife, Mrs Charlotte Lees, felt the full effects through the organ, while the organ-blower was literally blown off his feet.

To view the 'News Behind the News' story of the Etagh lightning strike, go here: www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive

East Belfast Mission needs help to renew and transform community

East Belfast Mission focus is the renewal and transformation of the East Belfast Community and they stress, "we need your help to achieve this goal! "

"At East Belfast Mission we work with everyone in our community to improve their spiritual and physical well

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being. As a non-profit organisation we run many fundraising activities to support our community work.”

This work includes helping the Homeless in our Hosford project, our child care facility in Bright Sparks, Social Enterprise which helps people back to work, and of course our thriving Church and Community which delivers pastoral care.

See how *you* can support these vital services by clicking on the options below:

Strictly Come Dancing for East Belfast Mission

Shop via Give as you Live

Leave a Gift In Your Will

Sign up to our Fundraising Email List

Or get in touch with EBM now at fundraising@ebm.org.uk to share your ideas and see how you can support EBM!

You can also [download our fundraising flyer by clicking here](#)

Calling all Future Brides & Grooms!

Join Restore Bridal for an exclusive fashion show showcasing its fabulous stock!

Bridal dresses, Bridesmaids dresses, Groomswear and mother of the bride/groom outfits will all be on show! See how your big day can make a difference by supporting the vital work of East Belfast Mission. Suggested Entry

Donation £5. For more information please contact:

RESTORE Bridal Shop, Unit 13 -14 Park Centre Donegall Road Belfast, BT12 6HN

E. parkcentre.restore@ebm.org.uk

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

Priesthood is for men only says leading Vatican authority

Cardinal-designate Luis Ladaria has said female ordination has been infallibly ruled out.

That only men can be validly ordained to the priesthood is a truth that is part of the Catholic faith and will not and cannot change, said Cardinal-designate Luis Ladaria, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

“It gives rise to serious concern to see that in some countries there still are voices that put in doubt the definitive nature of this doctrine,” the cardinal-designate wrote on May 29 in the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano.

St John Paul II, confirming the constant teaching and practice of the Church, formally declared in 1994 that “the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgment is to be definitively held by all the Church’s faithful.”

Cardinal-designate Ladaria said some people continue to question the infallibility of St John Paul’s declaration in the document “*Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*” because “it was not defined ‘*ex cathedra*’” or formally, solemnly proclaimed as infallible. The argument, the cardinal-designate wrote, is that “a later decision by a future pope or council could overturn it.”



Cardinal-designate Luis Ladaria, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

But “sowing these doubts creates serious confusion among the faithful not only about the sacrament of orders as part of the divine constitution of the church, but also about how the ordinary magisterium can teach Catholic doctrine in an infallible way,” he wrote.

A teaching of the Church is infallible not only when it is solemnly pronounced by a council or by a pope speaking “ex cathedra,” he said. A teaching is recognised as infallible also when it is “the ordinary and universal teaching of bishops spread throughout the world when, in communion among themselves and with the Pope, they propose Catholic doctrine that is to be held definitively.”

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That is what St John Paul did, he said. “He did not declare new dogma, but with the authority conferred on him as successor of Peter, he formally confirmed and made explicit – to remove any doubt – that which the ordinary and universal magisterium had considered as belonging to the deposit of faith throughout the history of the Church.”

“Christ willed to confer this sacrament on the 12 apostles – all men – who, in turn, communicated it to other men,” cardinal-designate Ladaria wrote. “The Church always has seen itself as bound to this decision of the Lord, which excludes that the ministerial priesthood can be conferred validly on women.”

In response to questions, he said, the doctrinal congregation “has repeated that this is a truth belonging to the deposit of the faith.”

That a candidate for the priesthood must be male, he said, belongs to the “substance of the sacrament” and cannot be changed since the sacrament was instituted by Christ.

Just because women cannot be ordained, he said, does not imply “subordination, but a mutual enrichment.”

The exalted role of Mary in the Church, even though she was not one of the 12 apostles, shows the importance of both the feminine and masculine in the Church, he said, which is a challenge to modern culture that “struggles to understand the meaning and goodness of the difference between man and woman.”

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Cardinal-designate Ladaria noted that Pope Francis also has reaffirmed the teaching on an all-male priesthood.

In “The Joy of the Gospel” in 2013 he wrote, “The reservation of the priesthood to males, as a sign of Christ the spouse who gives himself in the Eucharist, is not a question open to discussion.”

And, responding to a reporter’s question on a trip to Sweden in 2016, he said, “As for the ordination of women in the Catholic Church, the last, clear word was given by St John Paul II, and this holds.”

Diocese of Tasmania to sell churches to fund redress to victims of abuse

The Bishop of Tasmania has published a list of 78 parish properties that could be sold to fund redress to victims of abuse. The majority of the properties in the provisional list are churches, but it also includes rectories, rental properties and vacant land. In a pastoral letter to the people of the diocese last month, Bishop Richard Condie revealed that the diocese is liable for around \$8 million AUD (approximately £4.5 million GBP). The proposals will be debated by the diocesan Synod meeting in Launceston on Saturday.

“Redress is so important,” Bishop Richard said. “It’s a vital step in providing restorative justice, recognition and support to survivors of sexual abuse. The Prophet Isaiah teaches that God loves justice and calls us to make recompense for those who have been wronged. As people



St Saviour's Church in Meander is one of 78 properties that could be sold by the Diocese of Tasmania to fund redress for victims of abuse.

committed to God's restoration of the world, we have an obligation to provide this.”

He said: “The only way we can raise this amount of capital is from funds held by the trustees on behalf of the diocese and parishes, through selling parish properties, and by direct parish contributions. The diocesan council believes that this is the wisest approach, and should be shared among the whole diocesan family, rather than falling in one or two areas, and is the best way to secure the ongoing viability of the diocese. It is also better for us to make a clear proactive decision, rather than waiting for others to

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seize our assets over which we would then have little control.”

The bishop has since issued two more pastoral letters to update the diocese. In one, he said that the diocese planned to use 25 per cent from the net proceeds to fund the redress scheme. A further 25 per cent will go into the New Ministry Development Fund, while the balance will be held in trust for future use by local parishes.

The National Redress Scheme is one of the recommendations that came out of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse in Australia. Although national, it requires State governments to opt-in to the scheme before non-governmental institutions, such as churches can opt in. The Tasmanian government announced last week (22 May) that it was going to join the scheme. Responding to the announcement, Bishop Richard described it as “truly a great day for survivors of child sexual abuse in Tasmania.”

Elsewhere in Australia, the upper house of the state parliament in Victoria – the Legislative Council – is still considering the scheme which was approved by the Lower House last week on the same day that the Melbourne Diocesan Council gave its final approval for the diocese to join the scheme. “The Anglican Church – and I personally – have apologised for our failures to survivors of child sexual abuse,” the Archbishop of Melbourne, Philip Freier, Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, said. “We have been working continuously for well over a decade to improve our response to survivors and our approach to redress, and are grateful for the work of the Victorian Inquiry and the Royal Commission.”

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He said that the diocese believed that an independent and easy-to-access process for survivors, such as that proposed in the National Redress Scheme, was the right way forward. “We are committed to joining it,” he said.

The New South Wales government opted into the National Redress Scheme in March, in a move that was welcomed by the Diocese of Sydney, which said it “continues to be committed to meeting its responsibilities towards those who have suffered because of the appalling acts which have been perpetrated on vulnerable children in our care.”

In a statement, a spokesman said: “For many years, the diocese has had a redress policy offering care and assistance for survivors of child sexual abuse and payments continue to be made from that scheme. The maximum amount available from our scheme is already \$150,000 [AUD, approximately £85,000] which is in line with the Prime Minister’s announcement today.

“The diocese looks forward to receiving further details of the arrangements of the scheme and working constructively with both state and federal governments on this issue.”

US church archdiocese to pay 450 sex abuse survivors 210 million dollars

The Archdiocese of St Paul and Minneapolis has agreed a 210 million US dollar (£158 million) settlement with 450 victims of clergy sexual abuse, a lawyer says.

It is part of its plan for bankruptcy reorganisation, he said.



Victims' lawyer Jeff Anderson said the settlement was reached with the survivors and the archdiocese and includes accountability measures.

The Minnesota Legislature in 2013 opened a three-year window in the statute of limitations that allowed people who had been sexually abused in the past to sue for damages.

That resulted in hundreds of claims being filed against the archdiocese and led it to file for bankruptcy in 2015.

The bankruptcy case proceeded slowly as lawyers argued over how much the archdiocese should have to pay.

It reported its net worth was 45 million dollars (£34 million).

But lawyers for the victims maintained that the archdiocese's true worth was over a billion, counting assets of its 187 Roman Catholic parishes, as well as schools, cemeteries and other church-related entities.

The lawyers said those assets should be used to make more money available for victims.

Last month, a federal appeals court affirmed a 2016 decision by US Bankruptcy Judge Robert Kressel that the parishes and other nonprofit entities were independent, meaning their assets could not be counted in the bankruptcy case.

Last December, Judge Kressel rejected competing reorganisation plans filed by the archdiocese and a creditors' committee and ordered both sides back into mediation.

At least 15 Catholic dioceses or archdioceses across the country have filed for bankruptcy, including three in Minnesota, as they sought to protect themselves from growing claims of sexual abuse by clergy members.

A fourth Minnesota diocese, St Cloud, announced its intention to file in February.

Obituary

The funeral is took place yesterday of a former Co Armagh Parish Priest, Father Kieran MacOscar. Fr MacOscar, who had been Parish Priest at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mullavilly, passed away on Tuesday.

His funeral took place at the church with Requiem Mass at noon with interment afterwards in the adjoining cemetery.

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His passing is deeply regretted by his sorrowing nieces, nephews, Archbishop Martin, Cardinal Brady, the priests of the Archdiocese of Armagh and his many parishioners and friends.

News briefs

+++ COLERAINE BOMBING COMMEMORATION

A service to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Coleraine bombing will take place on Sunday 10th June 2018 at 2pm

+++THE POOR CLARES IN BELFAST

Book Launch - The Poor Clares in Belfast 1924-2012 by Fr Martin Magill will be launched on Tuesday 19 June around 7.45pm in Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Glenview Street, off the Oldpark Road. BT14 7DP. Please share.

+++IMYC DISABILITY INITIATIVE

The first meeting of the Disability Steering Group, an initiative by IMYC to facilitate conversation around disability in the church will be held on Tuesday June 5 in Cairnshill Methodist Church. It will be an informal conversation on Disability in the local church. Contact - Janette.mccormick@imycd.org

+++DEACONESSES ON PLACEMENT

Union Theological College - Please pray for our three first year deaconesses as they are now on placement over summer. From L-R: Louise Davidson - RVH & Shore Street, Donaghadee. Sylvia Santos-Bryce - IMP & Windsor. Paula Burrows - Greenwell Street.

+++PRAY FOR KIWOKO HOSPITAL AND DIOCESE

CMS Ireland - Please continue to pray for Kiwoko Hospital and Dr James as he acts as Interim Medical Director. Pray for the staff team and for the continued work and witness of the Hospital within Luweero Diocese and the wider community.

+++FIRST NATIONAL YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO LOUGH DERG

Bishop McKeown of Derry is to lead first National Youth Pilgrimage to Lough Derg 22-24 June 2018. Full details in link... <http://www.derrydiocese.org/component/easyblog/entry/news/bishop-donal-to-lead-first-national-youth-pilgrimage-to-lough-derg-22-24-june-2018?Itemid=549> ...

+++OPEN IFTAR ST PATRICK'S PARK DUBLIN

St Patrick's Cathedral - Our friends at "Under one tent" are having a wonderful event in the coming days in St Patrick's park (beside the Cathedral). All welcome! <https://www.facebook.com/UnderOneTent/>

+++FAN THE FLAME MASS

'Fan the Flame' Mass - around 2,500 Confirmation Children from Derry Diocese will gather to celebrate with Bishop Donal in Celtic Park GAA Ground... 7th June 2018... <http://www.derrydiocese.org/component/easyblog/entry/news/fan-the-flame-2018-a-celebration-of-our-children-sealed-in-the-holy-spirit-7th-june-2018?Itemid=549> ...

+++ NINETIETH BIRTHDAY RECOGNISED

The Dublin Central Branch of the Royal British Legion on May 20 - Our Good friend, and former president of The

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Royal British Legion in the Republic of Ireland Maj Gen (Rtd) O'Morchoe CB, CBE, KLJ celebrated his 90th Birthday during the week. He received many warm wishes from his friends and family. The Leinster Regiment Association which he is president of, presented The General with a Birthday Cake emblazoned with the Leinster's cap badge. The Dublin Central Branch have been delighted to support the Leinster Regiment Association in their tireless work throughout the years, and will continue to do so into the future. We will look forward to marking many more Birthdays with the General. An Officer and a Gentleman. - Major General David was for many years a member of the General Synod.

+++KINDNESS TO EAST BELFAST MISSION

EBM writes - Last night our café volunteers were treated to a fabulous evening of fun and food by [Odyssey Bowl](#) in [The SSE Arena](#), [Stokers Halt](#).

generous local stepped in to volunteers unfortunate which the tips had been saving out were stolen.



[Belfast](#) and [The](#) These two businesses help our following our break in, during our volunteers for an evening We are

extremely grateful for their support and of course for the support of the local community who also helped us to raise over £600 to replace the volunteers stolen tips! It has been totally overwhelming to receive so much support and so many kind and positive messages following the break in- so thank you all! ❤️

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