



*Elvis impersonator Andy Rodgers*

## Elvis in Eglinton a big hit with worshippers

St Canice's Church in Eglinton was packed to capacity on Sunday evening for what is believed to have been Ireland's first ever 'Elvis Service'. The service, which featured the music of the late, great Elvis Presley, was the brainchild of the

Rector of Faughanvale, Rev Paul Hoey, and was called 'All Shook Up'.

Rev Hoey hoped to attract not just Elvis devotees but worshippers who were curious to see what songs not normally sung in church might say about Christianity. The Rector was not disappointed. The large congregation included people of different Christian denominations, some of whom had travelled from as far away as Dungannon or Portstewart.

During the service, Elvis impersonator Andy Rodgers, from Coleraine, donned costumes similar to those worn by Presley during his career, including a GI's uniform, black leathers, and a sequined, white jumpsuit. He belted out classics such as Are You Lonesome Tonight, and The Wonder of You, and gospel hits such as Peace in the Valley and He Touched Me. Rodgers' performance ended with a rousing version of American Trilogy.

However, the most enthusiastic reaction of the evening was reserved for the Rector, Rev Hoey, who appeared after the last number wearing a black Elvis costume, dark glasses and wig. Peals of laughter turned to applause when the Rector revealed that a friend had pledged £100 to church funds if he donned an Elvis suit.

During the service, Rev Hoey reminded the congregation of Presley's own faith journey. He recalled what the entertainer said to one female concert-goer who referred to him as 'the King'. Presley thanked the fan politely but told her "I can't accept this kingship thing because to me there's only one 'King' – Jesus Christ".

## **Schools Singing Workshop at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork**

On Tuesday morning last (7th March) seven schools gathered in Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork for a workshop and performance led by Peter Stobart, Director of Music. All are schools which Peter has been visiting regularly as part of the Cathedral's Music Outreach programme to lead choirs and teach singing and so this was an opportunity for each school to show what it could do.

Some schools were local; St Maries of the Isle and St Fin Barre's National School simply had to walk across the road to be there. However Togher Boys' National School and St John the Baptist, Midleton had to come a little bit further. The music was varied in style but enthusiastically performed. St Luke's National School, Montenotte began the showcase with a



**Over 200 children, teachers and parents gathered for the Schools Singing Workshop at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork**

beautiful two-part rendition of *Panis Angelicus* whilst Cork Educate Together National School ended with the more jazzy *Goodnight Sweetheart*. St Michael's National School, Blackrock even gave a dance routine in full costume to the song *Superstar*.

The highlight of the day however was when all of the schools joined together both for the traditional Spiritual *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen* and *Consider Yourself* from the musical

Oliver! There were over 200 children taking part as well as some supporting parents who could not resist joining in either. The effect was breathtaking and as good an advert as any for the promotion of singing in our schools.

## **Christ Church Cathedral marks 80th birthday of former Precentor**

Christ Church Cathedral Choir gave a premiere performance of a new commission marking the 80th birthday of Canon Dr John Bartlett yesterday (Sunday March 12). Canon Bartlett, former Precentor of Christ Church Cathedral and former Principal of the Church of Ireland Theological College, celebrated the Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral yesterday and marks his 80th birthday today.

Entitled 'Blessed is the man' the new anthem was composed by renowned English composer, Dr David Bednall. The choir performed it for Canon Bartlett, to his enormous surprise, at the end of yesterday's service. During the service a hymn dedicated to Canon Bartlett was sung by the congregation. The text was composed by Dr Margaret Daly-Denton.



***Canon John Bartlett speaking at the end of the service.***

Speaking at the service, Dean Dermot Dunne said it was a great pleasure to honour a man who had 30 years' association with Christ Church Cathedral. Outlining Canon Bartlett's life of priesthood, the Dean paid tribute to his huge contribution to the Church of Ireland during his time as principal of the Church of Ireland Theological College (now Institute).

He also acknowledged his contribution to the life and music of the cathedral and said he took the mantle of Precentor to heart.

Clearly moved, Canon Bartlett thanked all who had worked so hard on his behalf. “Liturgy has been a very important part of my life. Without music, the worship is so much less powerful and inspiring. I am so grateful to the Dean and choir for them both,” he stated.

Cathedral Organist and Director of Music, Ian Keatley, who commissioned the new anthem explained its inspiration. “I chose two verses from the psalms which, for me, express something of the profound integrity and good nature of John’s character. We are very grateful to everyone who kindly donated the funds necessary to commission the new work,” he said.

The text for ‘Blessed is the man’ was taken from psalms 112: v 1 and 37: v 23 (King James Version). ‘Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord: that delighteth greatly in his commandments. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.’

## **Bishop of Clogher’s roadshow on the Reformation**

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd John McDowell has travelled around the diocese

delivering an address to parishioners on “Some Aspects of the Reformation.”

Bishop McDowell presented his informal talk at three roadshows in St. Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen; St.Patrick’s Church, Monaghan and St.Macartan’s Cathedral, Clogher hosted by the Dean and Chapter.

In 2017, many Christians will be commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

During his informal talks, Bishop McDowell examined some of the key people and key developments involved in the Reformation which shaped Christian faith from the 16th Century.

He explained how the culture and institutions of many countries in Western Europe were shaped by the Reformation. He went on to say, that although the Church of Ireland had its roots from 4th and 5th Centuries it had been greatly influenced by the Reformation of the sixteenth century.

“In Ireland, as we know, the progress of the Reformation was very patchy and it was the only Kingdom in these islands which did not become predominantly Protestant. Again there have been all sorts of theories to account for that but it is undoubtedly true that as a national movement





***Attending the Bishop's Roadshow in St.Macartan's Cathedral Clogher.***

the Reformation failed in Ireland in the sixteenth century,” he said.

Looking at society in the era of Martin Luther in the early years of the 16th Century, Bishop McDowell said life was very public and life was also extremely fragile.

“People then were always living on the edge of an abyss; two bad harvests could result in famine,” he said.

He described people as being more ‘earthy’ than they are now and would be considered ‘coarse’ in today’s society.

Bishop McDowell said that in its beginnings, the Reformation was very much a scholarly movement. and that Luther’s works ran to 120 volumes.

“The Reformation was a revolution started by scholars who were able to make use of the rediscovered skills of reading ancient languages, particularly the Greek and Hebrew of the Bible and other scholarly developments to engage again with the original biblical texts.

“Because the Reformation became a European wide movement these scholars wrote mostly in Latin so that they could understand each other. But not always. John Calvin could not read German and Martin Luther could not read French so they misunderstood many things about each other.”

Bishop McDowell said Luther was far from being the only reformer.

“There were many others such as Calvin as well as Heinrich Bullinger, Martin Bucer and Peter

Martyr (who had much more influence in England and Ireland in their day) but there was often great disunity among reformers,” he said. The language used was often robust but also very difficult to understand.

Bishop McDowell said: “In my view one of the reasons why Luther's theology appealed to many people in early modern Europe was because of the extraordinary precariousness of human existence and also the enormous resentment which had built up against the role of the church, and particularly the clergy, in everyday life.”

He concluded by outlining how parochial Luther's life had been, staying mostly in the same region of Germany apart from one visit to Rome. Bishop McDowell said Luther often had to defend his teachings and refused to back down. Martin Luther died in 1546 in the town of Eisleben in Saxony, the same town where he was born.

## **Rector spells it out to spray-paint hooligans**

Vandals have sprayed “sectarian” graffiti on a Church of Ireland church in Enniscorthy, the latest in a series of attacks over the past year.

# i at Church of Ireland church

s. Every day I  
d glass on the  
rown.  
disappointing  
ships in the  
is newspaper.  
ed there were  
ering at the  
e responsible  
ad no idea of  
  
was to install  
  
med and have  
in the vicinity  
sly to contact  
  
had a regular  
ople, many of  
  
is very upset-  
said.



Rev Nicola Halford.



The latest graffiti attack on the church in Enniscorthy.

The Rev Nicola Halford said that, in the incident on Ash Wednesday, “Proddie Besterd” (sic) was spray-painted on the door of St Mary’s.

The fact that the words were spelt incorrectly suggested the perpetrator was very young, the rector added.

“We had 70 small panes of glass smashed over the summer and ended up having to put mesh over the windows,” she said.

“Every day I was going to the church to find glass on the floor where stones had been thrown. It’s costly and disappointing, because ecumenical relations in the town are good.”  
Wexford People

## **Maths at Mens' breakfast in Bull McCabe's, Cork**

A group of about 110 men filled Bull McCabe's (Pub and Restaurant) on Airport Hill near Cork, by 9.00am on Saturday 11 March for a special parish breakfast. In recent years, this event has become a popular part of the Lent programme in Douglas Union of Parishes. Previous speakers have been the Revd Michael Cavanagh, who spoke about the Men's Shed project in Kenmare, and rugby pundit George Hook. There is a custom that several generations of the same family meeting to enjoy food and conversation and this year was no exception.

The guest speaker on Saturday morning this year was Professor Desmond MacHale, retired professor of mathematics at UCC. He is also the author of the highly-acclaimed biography of George Boole, who developed what became known as Boolean Algebra and was one of the first professors at Queen's College Cork. However, on this occasion Professor MacHale was not giving a history or maths lecture, but speaking about one of his other great passions, humour. Over the years, he has collected jokes



and has published over thirty books on the subject.

The title this year was 'God and Humour'. In the introduction to one of his joke books, Desmond writes 'I have been, as long as I can remember, a practising Catholic and I take my religion very seriously. I firmly believe that Jesus Christ was true man and true God and the He died to save me...Jesus was a joyful person and must have laughed a great deal. Christians, unlike some other religions, have a long and healthy tradition of laughing at themselves. I firmly believe that not only are humour and religious belief not incompatible, but they can actually improve and complement one another.' Those who attended

this event enjoyed some of Desmond's favourite religious jokes and his reflections on the important contribution humour can make both in life and in the church.

Concluding the morning, the rector Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson thanked Professor MacHale for accepting his invitation to speak this year. He also thanked Howard and Derek Dunne and their staff at Bull McCabes, who opened up early for this event and served a delicious cooked breakfast.

## **Limerick trainee teachers awe-struck on visit Rome**

An innovative approach to the teaching of religion in primary schools has seen 18 trainee primary school teachers from Mary Immaculate College (MIC) in Limerick city travel to Rome recently as part of their Religion and Creativity module on the BEd programme at the college.

The students spent a packed five days in Rome on a guided tour of selected ancient Roman, medieval and modern sacred religious sites and art in order to appreciate the key role that the creative arts play in religious life.





Accompanied by Dr Patricia Kieran, lecturer in Religious Education, MIC and Dr Nóirín Ní Riain, the students were based in the Irish College in Rome where they were warmly welcomed by Rev. Paul Finnerty, Vice Rector of the Irish College, who was well known to the students. Up until 2016, Fr Finnerty served as Diocesan Secretary of the Diocese of Limerick and was last year appointed to his current position in Rome.

Fr Paul took the students on a guided walking tour of some key historic sites, including the Colosseum, Constantine's Arch, Trajan's Market, the Roman Forum, the Victor Emmanuel



Monument, the Pantheon and the French Church, which houses three Caravaggio paintings.

A highlight for many on the trip was the stunning performance by Nóirín Ní Riain, who sang in the Church of the Martyrs in the Irish College at the ordination of three Irish students to the diaconate. She was accompanied by MIC student Annmarie O’Riordan.

A senior lecturer at Mary Immaculate College, Dr Nóirín Ní Riain said: “These halcyon days in Rome with some 18 students of MIC were transformative and miraculous for us all on so many levels.

“We were awe-struck ... by the historic buildings but more so the spiritual presence of the spaces. The entire experience was punctuated with many prayer moments such as singing together ritualistically at the Pantheon, having the privilege of performing at a diaconate ordination and meeting with many people for whom the Christian faith is paramount in their lives.

“These students will never forget the experience and their lives, their teaching, will be forever transfigured in the good of it all. I am so honoured and privileged to be part of it and to

contribute to its phenomenal success in some small manner.”

## **Down & Dromore MU leader with Anglican women in New York for 61st annual UN Commission meeting**

The 61st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women ([UNCSW](#)) meeting in New York City is underway from March 13 to March 24. Women and girls, men and boys from throughout the Anglican Communion are taking part. They include June Butler, MU President of Down & Dromore.

The 2017 UNCSW Priority Theme is “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work.” A major focus will continue to be the implementation of [Agenda 2030](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

The provincial delegate and the Episcopal Church delegates will be able to attend the UNCSW official meetings as observers on the floor of the United Nations and will represent the Episcopal Church/Anglican Communion in their advocacy. They will be able to report on United Nations meetings during debriefs, speak about

official Episcopal Church priorities with United Nations entities and permanent mission representatives, attend parallel events and reflect during UNCSW on how they can share the knowledge when they return to their communities and train new women leaders.

- The Episcopal Church hosted an opening Eucharist at 12:10 p.m. on Monday, March 13, in the Chapel of Christ the Lord in the Episcopal Church Center, during which the Rev. Margaret Rose celebrated and the Rev. Deacon Carey Chirico preached. A group of young adults and their parents from St. George's Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia, wrote and lead the Prayers of the People.

- Regular midday Eucharist worship are continuing Monday-Friday in the Chapel of Christ the Lord at 12:10 p.m. ET.

- On March 15, 10 to 11:30 a.m., the Anglican Communion will host Fereshteh Forough, founder and chief executive officer of Code to Inspire, speaking in the Chapel of Christ the Lord. The Anglican Communion also will host parallel events at the Church Center for the United Nations.

- On March 21, a special UNCSW Eucharist for participants, Episcopal Church Center staff and

the public will feature Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as the preacher and the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, president of the [House of Deputies](#), as the celebrant. From 3 to 4 p.m., Presiding Bishop Curry and President Jennings will welcome participants to a conversation in the Chapel of Christ the Lord.

- There will be a closing Eucharist on March 24 at 12:10 p.m. and will incorporate the stories, songs and experiences of the delegates.

In addition to these events at the Episcopal Church Center, Episcopalians will be organizing many other UNCSW parallel events and worship opportunities throughout New York City, at the Church Center for the United Nations, and at churches in the Episcopal Diocese of New York. More information is located [here](#).

The Episcopal Church Center, located one block from the United Nations, will provide hospitality space for participants throughout the two weeks.

**GET CNI HEADLINES EACH DAY**  
**on Twitter or Facebook**  
**Click on logo at CNI Home page**  
**[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)**

