



The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, the divided centre of Christianity where Archbishop Welby will spend several days.

Archbishop of Canterbury to make high-level, 12 day trip to the Holy Land

The Archbishop of Canterbury will make a high-level 12 day visit to the Holy Land in May, Lambeth Palace has confirmed .

In one of his longest trips as Archbishop, Justin Welby will take in Jordan and Bethlehem as well as Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Galilee, and focus on the themes of reconciliation, Christian unity and the persecution of Christians in the Middle East.

The Archbishop's visit will be largely aimed at affirming the presence of Christian communities in the Holy Land. But as ever in the region, there will be a political dimension: Archbishop Welby is likely to meet with the Israeli and Palestinian Presidents, Reuven Rivlin and Mahmoud Abbas respectively as well as other leaders, including King Abdullah II of Jordan in Amman. A meeting is being sought with the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The trip comes exactly 50 years after the Six Day War which resulted in the Occupation of Palestinian territories and 100 years after the Balfour Declaration which established a Jewish state on Palestinian land.

Archbishop Welby will spend several days in Jerusalem where he will stay at the Anglican St. George's Cathedral at the invitation of the Archbishop of Jerusalem, Suheil Dawani. Archbishop Welby will preside over a Communion service and be installed as an Episcopal Canon at the Cathedral.



The security barrier in the West Bank, will Archbishop Welby will pass through on his way in and out of Bethlehem.

He will visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and other Christian sites as well as the Western Wall and, possibly, the Temple Mount in the divided city.

In Bethlehem, where Archbishop Welby is expected to stay overnight, he will meet with the Christian mayor of the town, Vera Baboun. Mayor Baboun will brief the Archbishop on the situation in Bethlehem including the surrounding Israeli settlements and security wall or 'separation barrier'. She and other Palestinian

Christians in Bethlehem are likely to emphasise the increasing numbers of Christians who are leaving the town of Jesus's birthplace, where only around 15 per cent of the population today is Christian.

Archbishop Welby will pass through the controversial separation barrier as he enters and exits Bethlehem by road. He will also symbolically enter Israel via the West Bank by crossing the Allenby Bridge over the Jordan River from Jordan, where he will begin his trip.

In Tel Aviv, the Archbishop will meet with the Chief Rabbinate of Israel as well as taking part in other inter-faith events in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. He will also deliver a set-piece speech on the theme of reconciliation at the Peres Centre for Peace in Tel Aviv, named after the late Israeli President Shimon Peres. In the north of Israel, Archbishop Welby will visit Galilee and Nazareth as well as Haifa and Acre, where there is a growing Christian community.

Welsh MPs blast Church over 'homophobic' treatment of gay cleric Jeffrey John



Dr Jeffrey John is currently Dean of St Albans Cathedral after previously being blocked from Bishop of Reading, Bishop of Southwark and Bishop of Bangor.

Welsh MPs are urging the Church to rethink their rejection of senior gay cleric Jeffrey John after they blocked him from becoming a bishop amid allegations of homophobia.

The intervention from nine MPs comes amid mounting pressure on the Church in Wales after they were accused of discrimination with Dr John saying the only reason his nomination was rejected was his sexuality.

In a letter led by Madeleine Moon, MP for Bridgend, the politicians say the process for appointing the new Bishop of Llandaff has been 'flawed' and led to 'considerable disharmony, anger and confusion'.

Saying they 'heard from many quarters' the concerns over homophobia, the MPs called for the election to be halted and Dr John reconsidered in a new vote.

The letter sent to Welsh bishops on Tuesday comes after Dr John said 'a number of homophobic remarks' were made against him during the appointment process and he was later told bishops were 'just too exhausted' to deal with the problems they believed his appointment would cause.

The MPs write: 'We are of the opinion that 'exhaustion' cannot be acceptable as a reason not to appoint someone eminently qualified and what we are informed was the unanimous choice of the electors of Llandaff.'

Politicians across the southern Welsh constituencies signed the letter including Stephen Doughty, MP for Cardiff South and Penarth, Carolyn Harris, MP for Swansea East, Nia Griffiths, MP for Llanelli, Chris Elmore, MP



Madeleine Moon, MP for Bridgend, coordinated the letter to Welsh bishops signed by MPs across south Wales

for Ogmore, Chris Bryant, MP for Rhondda, Chris Evans, MP for Islwyn, Wayne David, MP for Caerphilly and Gerald Jones, MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney.

It came on the same day as One Body One Faith, an LGBT grouping in the Church, also wrote to bishops saying the blocking of Dr John was a 'tragedy'.

CEO Tracey Byrne and Chair Jeremy Pemberton, wrote: 'It is entirely unacceptable to problematise a gay man in the way you have. Indeed, it is an insult to him and to every other LGBT+ person in your church.

'We are not problems, we are part of the body of Christ and deserve to be treated with dignity, and to be seen as a gift. The capacity of churches to throw talent away because it doesn't come

packaged in easily manageable forms is not a reason to discard both the gift and the bearer of the gift, nor does it make that an acceptable policy option.'

The outrage was sparked after Dr John made the highly unusual move of writing an open letter to senior Welsh bishop John Davies expressing his concern at how his nomination had been handled.

'The only arguments adduced against my appointment – in particular by two of the bishops - were directly related to my homosexuality and/or civil partnership – namely that my appointment would bring unwelcome and unsettling publicity to the diocese, and that it might create difficulties for the future Archbishop in relation to the Anglican Communion,' he wrote.

'To ride roughshod of the very clearly expressed, unanimous view of a diocese in this way is extraordinary, unprecedented and foolish,' he told Bishop Davies.

'You decided, arbitrarily, to ignore the submissions that you had asked for, and to declare that those who were discussed at the Electoral College were now, in fact, no longer to be considered. This is a clear and ludicrous

breach of process, and a further insult to the people of the diocese, and very many others who took the trouble to contribute their view.'

C of E bishop appoints liaison officer for LGBT community

The Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner, has announced the appointment of Reverend Andrew Woodward, Priest in Charge of St Mary's Kemp Town and Rural Dean of Brighton, as the first Bishop's Liaison Officer for the LGBTi community in the Diocese of Chichester.

The aim of the post is to provide the bishops and parishes with up to date information about the pastoral needs of the LGBTi community and to identify what ministry among this community might look like if it is to be more effective.

The new officer will also represent the church in this community so as to build bridges and enable pastoral support for a substantial group of people who feel the Church is alienated from them. Many feel they are tolerated but not included.

Dr Warner said today: "This post is about pastoral bridges in line with our diocesan strategy, know, love, follow Jesus. It is primarily

about building, opening and crossing new and existing bridges towards great understanding and mutual flourishing.”

More at -

<http://www.chichester.anglican.org/news/2017/03/20/bishops-liaison-officer-lgbti-community-appointed/>

Pope Francis begs forgiveness for ‘sins and failings’ of Church during Rwandan genocide

Pope Francis begged forgiveness on Monday for the “sins and failings of the Church and its members” during Rwanda’s 1994 genocide and told Rwanda’s president that he hoped his apology would help the country heal.

In an extraordinary statement after Francis’s meeting with Rwandan President Paul Kagame, the Vatican acknowledged that some Catholic priests and nuns “succumbed to hatred and violence, betraying their own evangelical mission” by participating in the genocide.

During the 100-day genocide, more than 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by Hutu extremists.

Many of the victims died at the hands of priests, clergymen and nuns, according to some accounts by survivors, and the Rwandan government says many died in the churches where they had sought refuge.

The Vatican said Francis “expressed the desire that this humble recognition of the failings of that period, which unfortunately disfigured the face of the Church, may contribute to a ‘purification of memory’ and may promote, in hope and renewed trust, a future of peace.”

The Vatican’s statement followed an official apology last year by Rwanda’s Catholic bishops for “all the wrongs the Church committed.”

In the years since, the local Catholic Church had resisted efforts by the government and survivors’ groups to acknowledge the Church’s complicity in mass murder, saying those Church officials who committed crimes acted individually.

The Vatican said Francis conveyed the sadness of the Holy See and the Church at large for the

genocide and expressed solidarity with the victims.

“Evoking the gesture of St John Paul II during the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, he implored anew God’s forgiveness for the sins and failings of the Church and its members,” the Vatican said.



Church Banner Workshop a success for Cork children’s ministry group

People from seven different parishes from the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross came to Carrigaline Parish Hall on Saturday 18th

March to take part in a Church Banner Workshop organised by the Diocesan Children's Ministry Group.

Hard at work at the Church Banner workshop organised by the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Children's Ministry Group in Carrigaline, County Cork.

Noeleen Hogan came all the way from Co. Wicklow to share her expertise in this area and at the end of a hard day's work, every parish went home with a unique finished Alleluia Banner to use during Eastertide (as well as the knowledge and expertise on how to make more Banners for their church in the future).

Limerick Pipe Organ Festival

Limerick Pipe Organ Festival is participating in Sacred Music Week at the Sacred Heart Church in the Crescent Limerick at the end of this month.

Esteemed organist, Trevor Selby, will give a recital on Saturday 25th March from 5pm to 6pm on the beautiful restored 1924 Telford and Telford organ.

This magnificent 3 manual instrument contains some 31 stops, or sets of pipes, ranging from the softest and most delicate flute stops to the brilliant trumpet, easily heard from outside the church. It is interesting to note that the Cecilian Musical Society, (named after St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music), was founded in 1919 to raise funds for this organ.

Trevor Selby came to Limerick in 2004 to be organist and choirmaster at St Mary's Cathedral. After six years he became organist at Killaloe Cathedral and All Saints Church, Castleconnell from which posts he has now retired. He has taught piano and organ at the Limerick School of Music and has been in great demand as a piano accompanist there and elsewhere since his arrival.

Formerly Trevor lived and worked in England where his musical activity began as a cathedral chorister in Rochester. Later In London he studied organ with Alan Thurlow and Harold Dexter, and Piano with Mary Peppin. He is a Graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and holds the prestigious Fellowship diploma from the Royal College of Organists.

In a wide-ranging and varied career, he has held a number of church appointments, and has taught in schools and colleges, conducted and accompanied many soloists, choirs, choral societies and operatic groups, and has given a large number of organ recitals in various locations at home and abroad. At St. Mary's he instigated a regular series of lunchtime recitals, in most of which he appeared as either piano accompanist or organ recitalist.

For the recital at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday 25th March Trevor will be able to indulge his great affection for French organ music for which the instrument there is particularly suited. Composers range from Andre Raison of the baroque through Cesar Franck to Jehan Alain and of course Louis Vierne, whose influence as teacher and composer whilst organist at Notre-Dame in Paris was wide-ranging. The recital will begin with a toe-tapping Fanfare by the Belgian composer Lemmens, and there will be a generous portion of varied short works by J.S.Bach, whose birthday occurs this week on Tuesday 21st.

Admission is free with a retiring collection at the end, a portion of which will go towards Limerick Pipe Organ Festival 2018, when it is hoped to

bring an international organist to Limerick once more.

Your support is as always greatly appreciated.

More details of Sacred Music Week here: <http://institute-christ-king.ie/uploads/2017-03.pdf>

More details about Limerick Pipe Organ Festival here: www.lpof.ie and here: www.facebook.com/LimerickPipeOrganFestival/

Parishes in Cork and Dromore dioceses connect on local community needs

A group of eight parishioners representing Carrigrohane union of parishes in the Diocese of Cork recently travelled to Shankill parish in the Diocese of Dromore to visit and learn about the Jethro Centre in Lurgan. This cross-diocesan connection is a great example of sharing experience and expertise within our island-wide Church network. The Jethro Centre was officially opened in May 2007 and is run by Shankill Parish Caring Association (SPCA). Its vision is to promote the well-being of the

inhabitants of Lurgan and surrounding areas and to promote the Christian faith among them.

The centre hosts a wide variety of courses to meet the needs of the local community, enabling the Shankill Parish Caring Association to fulfil its mission. Carrigrohane Union of Parishes – which includes Carrigrohane, Ballincollig, Inniscarra and Blarney – has a successful record of outreach but is limited by its physical separation from the main town and population area. The group's visit to the Jethro Centre was part of its research into appropriate charitable trust models as they plan a new community resource centre in the town of Ballincollig.

Carrigrohane Union is committed to establishing a sustainable and credible witness which improves and expands the parishes' current ministry and mission activity and, in so doing, is a source of blessing in the town of Ballincollig. Along with the Jethro Centre Manager, Andrew Dunlop, and the Chairperson of SPCA, Dessie Gregg, there was a tour of the centre which allowed the group to understand its governance structures and how it relates to the parish, looking in detail at programmes, volunteers, running costs, and internal and external funding. The visit provided an



opportunity to ask honest, sometimes difficult, questions of a fellow Church of Ireland parish, and together explore the impact that pioneering Christian projects can have in local communities.

The cross-diocesan connection allowed the parishes to share meaningful experiences and to learn from one another. Bill Lane, who is co-leading the Carrigrohane Union project alongside Matt Gould, said: “It was helpful and encouraging to see how another church has chosen to engage with its broader community and become a community hub and resource. I know we have all learned a great deal and were

challenged to further our vision of a similar venture in Ballincollig.”

Ideas for sharing and strengthening connections between parishes can be shared with Nicola Brown at parishsupportofficer@rcbdub.org. Ms Brown is the Church of Ireland’s Parish Support Officer and organised the collaboration between the group representing Carrigrohane Union and the SPCA referred to in this report. Report by Nicola Brown first published in the Church of Ireland Gazette.

Prize for Kinsale school



Spectators at the Kinsale St Patrick's Day Parade in Co. Cork were entertained this year by the children of St Multose National School – the Church of Ireland Primary School in Kinsale. The children played the part of the Children of Lir from the Irish Legend of the same name and were awarded the Perpetual Shield for the Best Junior Group.

News briefs & Upcoming events

+++ Swimming to Paraguay - Matthew Walsh, one of the team from Mullavilly Parish Church, who will travel to Paraguay in July 2017, will be swimming 6290 metres or 190 lengths of Portadown Pool. For video interview with Matthew Walsh about his "big swim" on Sat 25th March [click here](#) You can donate: (a) via the collection boxes at Portadown Pool on Sat 25th March. (b) by contacting Wendy Walsh on 07732 630074 (c) or by post to: Mullavilly Parish Rectory, 89 Mullavilly Road, Tandragee, Co Armagh, BT62 2LX

+++ Armagh Canon appointed - The Archbishop, Dean and Chapter of St Patrick's Cathedral have announced the Revd Barry Paine as the new Canon, following Canon Robert Boyd's institution in Glendermott Parish, Diocese

of Derry and Raphoe. The date of the Service of Installation is still to be confirmed.

GET CNI HEADLINES EACH DAY

on Twitter or Facebook

Click on logo at CNI Home page

www.churchnewsireland.org

+ Please share CNI with your friends

www.churchnewsireland.org