



## Irishman leads bible training in the Arctic

Crosslinks Ireland Team Leader David Luckman is in the Arctic for the Crosslinks School of Biblical Training at the invitation of Bishop Darren McCartney, who was a former incumbent of Knocknamuckley parish in the Church of Ireland Diocese of Down and Dromore.

The Crosslinks School of Biblical Training started last Monday at the Arthur Turner Training School in Iqaluit.

## **Irish nun injured after assault at church in the Philippines**

An Irish missionary nun was injured in a church attack in Zamboanga del Sur, in the Philippines last week.

Police Director Sofronio Ecaldre identified the victim as Kathleen Anne Melia, 70, a nun and an Irish national serving at the San Jose Parish Church in Midsalip town. Ecaldre said Melia was about to close the window of the convent around 9:26 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, when she was attacked by an unidentified person.

Ecaldre said Melia told them that the man tried to cover her mouth and punched her in the face and chest. She sustained multiple injuries. The man, clad in bonnet mask, fled when the nun fell on the ground unconscious.

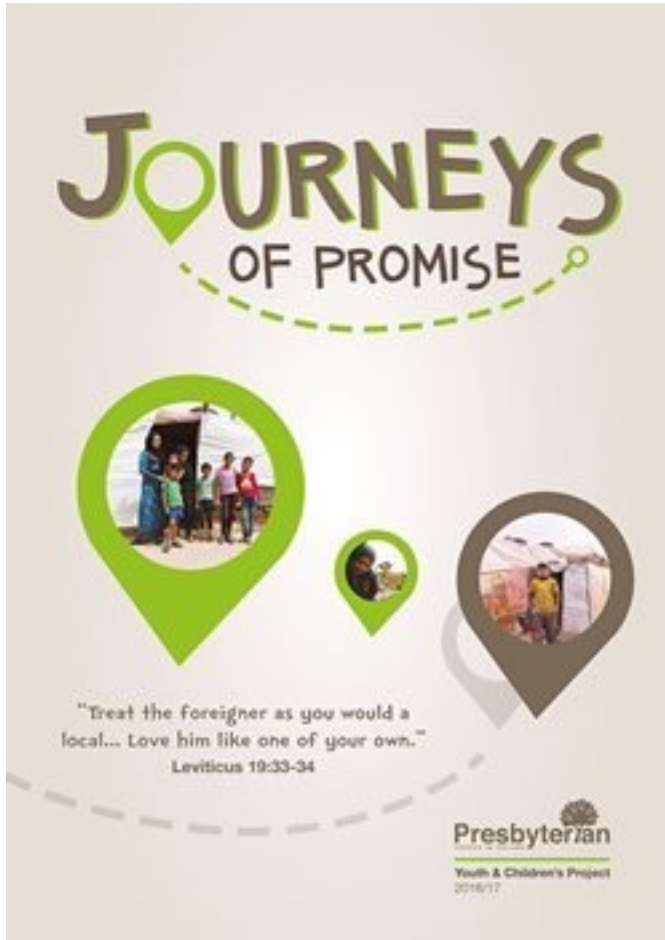
Ecaldre said the victim was hospitalized for treatment while investigation is ongoing to identify the person behind the attack.

## **Presbyterian Church's Youth and Children's Project highlights displaced young people and children**

Every year the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) launches a Youth and Children's Project for the children and young people of our Church to get involved in. This year's project, 'Journeys of Promise', has a completely global focus.

It is difficult to avoid the regular news footage showing thousands of people from Syria and Lebanon being forced to leave their homeland in search of safety and peace somewhere else. With this in mind, the project is highlighting the stories of young people and children who, along with their families, have suffered trauma and been displaced from their own countries. The project is focusing on those who are in Lebanon and being supported through the work of National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL) and Open Doors, both partners of PCI.

In Lebanon the project is supporting the work of NESSL as it builds a school for the children who are living in refugee camps. The money raised by



the Presbyterian Church will help to finance the renovation and refurbishment of an old school building and to employ Syrian teachers from the refugee camp. Open Doors is involved in helping a local organisation in offering food packages and other essentials. The money we raise will help to finance their efforts and provide Bibles

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

and resources for youth and children's programmes in the camps.

In Syria the PCI is supporting the work of Open Doors as it distributes Bibles. The Christian Church there is in the midst of all the violence and telling people about Jesus. Money raised by PCI will see that more Bibles are shipped to Syria and distributed among new Christians there.

**'Journeys of Promise'** tells the story of three individuals who represent the many people who live in a situation like this. Miriam is a nine-year-old refugee in Lebanon; Achmed is 13 and also lives in the Lebanese refugee camp; while Ghalib is a key Bible distributor in Syria and involved with Open Doors.

A from Leviticus is the memory verse for this year's project - "Treat the foreigner as you would a local... love him like one of your own" Leviticus 19:33-34 – the desire is for the children and young people of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to understand how they can make a difference in the world, by living out their faith as part of a community of global concern.

Two Youth and Children's Project packs are sent to every congregation in PCI, and it's not too late to get involved. To find out more click here or [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

contact the Congregational Life and Witness  
office email: [clw@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:clw@presbyterianireland.org)

## **Ancient Limerick Franciscan Abbey renovated as part of Fáilte Ireland tourist initiative**

A 600-year-old Co. Limerick abbey which has just undergone extensive renovations as part of a pilot programme by Fáilte Ireland looks set to become a major tourist attraction.

Extensive maintenance works have been carried out at the Franciscan Friary in Askeaton in West Limerick as part of the development of the Shannon Estuary Drive, which connects the estuary with the Wild Atlantic Way.

The Franciscan Friary of Askeaton lies by the River Deel, to the north of the village. While there is some uncertainty as to its establishment, it is believed the friary was founded either in 1389 by Gerald Fitzgerald (1335–98), 3rd Earl of Desmond and Lord Justice of Ireland, or in 1420 by James Fitzgerald (c.1380–1462), 7th Earl of Desmond.



The extensive remains of the friary and its surroundings represent an imposing medieval architectural landscape that was probably planned intentionally in the early 15th century. The friary's cloister is intact and an image of St Francis was carved into the cloister arcade to remind the Franciscan friars of their patron saint as they went to and from Divine Office.

Among the detailed features are an elaborate sedilia in the south wall, three altar-tombs of similar design, probably built for the Desmond family or other prominent patrons, a Mass dial in the cloister, and a wall painting of Christ as the Man of Sorrows. A medieval wooden statue of the Madonna and Child and three medieval bells

from Askeaton are now in the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin.

The Office of Public Works said that the Shannon Estuary Drive is one of the first in a series of drives currently being developed as part of a pilot scheme from Fáilte Ireland which aims to enhance the visitor experience along the Wild Atlantic Way.

The works that have taken place in Askeaton have included new chippings being laid on pathways within the building, and the cloister area has been washed and cleaned. Other works, including a general clean-up up of the entire site, have also been undertaken.

## **The Journey: film about Paisley and McGuinness set for release in June**

Bangor writer Colin Bateman is set to see his new Troubles movie “The Journey” on the big screen after a major film firm snapped up the UK and Ireland rights.

The Journey starring Timothy Spall and Colm Meaney, charts a fictional meeting between political foes turned pals, Ian Paisley, former leader of the DUP and Sinn Fein’s Martin McGuinness. Co-stars include Freddie



Highmore, Toby Stephens and the late John Hurt, in one of his last roles.

It is due for release on June 30. It was given its first public airing at the Venice Film Festival.

The film was written by the former journalist and produced by Piers Tempest and Mark Huffam, along with Matt Jackson and IM Global founder and CEO Stuart Ford with Nick Hamm directing.

Bateman said on Saturday: "I'm pleased to report that after what feels like a long time - but quite standard for the film business - there's finally news of The Journey's release in the UK and Ireland."

## **Bantry funeral of former Governor of the Falkland Islands**

The funeral has taken place in the Church of Saint Brendan the Navigator, Bantry, County Cork of Sir Cosmo Dugal Patrick Thomas Haskard, KCMG, MBE, who died recently at his home at Tragariff on the shores of Bantry Bay, an ocean away from the Falkland Islands where he served as Governor from 1964 to 1970.

Sir Cosmo died three months after reaching his 100th birthday last November. His health has



***Sir Cosmo Haskard, arriving as Governor of the Falkland Islands in 1964.***

been very frail for some time during which time he was cared for at his home by his dedicated wife, Lady Haskard, and a team of wonderful carers.

Sir Cosmo Haskard was born in Dublin in November 1916 and was baptised at St. Patrick's Cathedral. This was more by accident than design. His mother spent her 'confinement' in a Dublin nursing home as his father was serving with the army in France at that time.

Following a childhood and early education which was spent mainly in England, he graduated from Sandhurst and then moved to Pembroke

College, Cambridge, where he studied modern languages. Following this he served in Africa during the Second World War. By this time his father had built a new family home at Tragariff and it was here that he spent his vacation time.

After the War he joined the Colonial Service and served in Africa where he met his wife Phyllida. He retired from the Colonial Service following his final posting as Governor of the Falkland Islands where he served from 1964 to 1970. He then moved with his wife, and son Julian, back to Bantry to begin a new phase of his life.

He will be remembered locally in Bantry parish for those 37 latter years. He became a dedicated parishioner of Snave Church, a member of the Select Vestry and served on the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Synod as well as on the Diocesan Council. He loved the traditional language Book of Common Prayer and it was through him, and a small group of other faithful parishioners, that the parish were able to start an 'early' Sunday celebration of the Holy Communion. He was a beautiful reader of Holy Scripture. He will always be remembered for his reading at the annual Community Carol Service.

The local rector, Canon Paul Willoughby, said of Sir Cosmo: "We have very many reasons to give

thanks for his life. He will be remembered by all in this parish, and indeed in the local community, as a kind, gracious and ‘gentle’ man. He was a devout communicant and faithful parishioner who showed a genuine, caring interest in everyone he met. It was this care about others that prompted a spontaneous response in many acts of kindness and generosity from the local community during the time of his frail health. We extend our sympathy to Lady Haskard and to her Julian, Michelle and their sons Cosmo, Piers and Hugo. May he rest in peace.”

## **C of I Archbishop addresses Catholic conference on ‘Why Faith Schools Matter’**

Archbishop Michael Jackson gave an address at a conference organized by the Catholic Primary School Management Association in Dublin last Friday (March 3). The conference was on the theme of ‘Why Faith Schools Matter’ and the Archbishop was one of a number of speakers.

Entitled ‘A Perspective on Education, Ethos and Engagement’, the Archbishop’s paper addressed a number of aspects of school patronage including ethos, education and values. He contended that ethos is twofold: there is an

ethos of educational content and delivery and an ethos of religious or Faith principles, values and practices in human relationships and in civic responsibilities which infuse a secular school that is under religious patronage. He suggested that the tendency to move away from Faith-based school patronage to deliver what he said is erroneously called 'secular patronage', discriminates against religious minorities. He stated that Church of Ireland schools have always espoused pluralism and diversity within a secular context.

In conclusion the Archbishop said: "People of faith together need to engage with everyone else in the secular space with listening and love – not least when such religious bodies have largely allowed themselves to recede from the public square into a zone of non-engagement leading towards non-entity. This approach is essential if the educational ethos in and of itself is to be enriched by and enriching of a diversity of publicly funded forms of patronage and if policy makers are not simply and increasingly to seek to strip out the assets of the inherited forms of patronage, in order to make room for what need to be supplementary rather than substitutionary forms of patronage, and in the process disallowing such continuing and still widely respected forms of patronage from speaking into

the civic society from which their members come and in which they belong. Churches never intended to do it by themselves. We need the partnership of conversation and the conversation of partnership. We need to speak up. We need to engage”.

The full text of Archbishop Jackson’s speech is at:

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2017/03/Education-Ethos-and-Engagement-Archbishop-Addresses-Conference-on-Faith-Schools>

## **Church Stance On Gay Marriage ‘Increasingly Untenable’ For An Established Church, Say MPs**

MPs are branding the established Church’s status on sexuality ‘untenable’, ‘unfair’ and ‘hard to justify’ as they piled on pressure for a change, Harry Farley reports in Christian Today.

Labour’s Ben Bradshaw and Chris Bryant and Tory MP Robert Jenrick all voiced their concern after a bishops’ report on sexuality was rejected by the Church of England’s ruling body.



***Chris Bryant, a former Anglican priest and now Labour MP for the Rhondda, was one of those to criticise the Church's stance.***

The report kept a conservative line on gay marriage and was criticised by members of the general synod for its tone towards LGBT people.

Ben Bradshaw, Labour MP for Exeter, who is Anglican and in a gay relationship, said: 'Is it not increasingly untenable for our Church, which enjoys significant privileges in this country because of its established status, to continue to discriminate against its own members simply because they happen to be gay?'

Robert Jenrick, Conservative MP for Newark, raised the case of Canon Jeremy Pemberton, a constituent of his, who was barred from taking a role as a priest because he entered a gay marriage.

In questions to the Church commissioners' questions, he said: 'Does my right honourable friend accept that allowing each bishop discretion in how to handle these, admittedly, complex issues is creating unfairness and variances that are quite hard to justify?'

Chris Bryant, a former Anglican priest who quit in protest over its stance on sexuality, raised Jeffrey John being blocked from being a bishop in the Church in Wales, [which Christian Today revealed last week](#).

'The other bishops have refused to do what they have done in every other case—accept what the members of the local diocese have wanted,' he said.

## **Dying bishop supports gay marriage**

A bishop who is dying of cancer has said he supports gay marriage and criticised the Church





of England's approach to gay people in a farewell letter to parishioners, *The Daily Telegraph* reports.

John Wraw, the bishop of Bradwell, in Chelmsford, told *The Telegraph* that his experience of being diagnosed with the condition and the support he had received from gay people within the church had "made him think really seriously" and changed his views.

In a letter published online he told his parishioners and colleagues that his multiple myeloma, which he was diagnosed with in 2014, is no longer treatable.

He supported the introduction of women bishops in 2014, but has not previously expressed a public view on gay marriage.

He said: "It is recognising those qualities of relationship that I meet with so many people - heterosexual, gay, bi - with people not really wanting to find their identity in gender but in who they are as human beings, for me children of God whom God delights in.

"This is not new Christian theology but for me I have lived it very intensely and personally this last three years and it has changed me profoundly as a person."

## **News briefs & Upcoming events**

**+++ New rector for St Jude's, Belfast** - The new rector of St Jude's Ballynafeigh is to be The Revd Peter Bourke, who is at present associate minister at St Elizabeth's Dundonald. Date of institution to be announced.

**+++ Dublin film series starts** - Today Monday a new series of candle-lit film evenings entitled 'Sun, Sea and Soil: Our Planet in the 21st Century' begins in the Music Room of Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, at 6.30pm. The first

screening will be of the 1973 classic sci-fi vision of an over-populated world, *Soylent Green* which will be introduced by The Irish Times film critic, Donald Clarke.

**+++ Election of Dublin canon** - There will be a special meeting of the Dublin & Glendalough Diocesan Synods on Tuesday evening in the Church of St John the Baptist, Clontarf, at 7.30pm. The Synods will elect a member of the clergy to the prebendal stall of Dunlavin in St Patrick's cathedral which is vacant following the election of Canon Horace McKinley as Treasurer of St Patrick's. In the Athy Parish Centre at 8pm Dr Philip Knowles will lead a workshop for the West Glendalough branches of the Mothers' Union on the theme 'Jesus, the Truth'.

**+++ Limerick organ recital** - The lunchtime concert series at St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, recommences on Wednesday with an organ recital at 1.15pm when Peter Barley will play music by J.S. Bach and Franck.

**+++ Armagh Women's Day lecture** - In the Armagh Robinson Library at 7.30pm Professor Moya Haslett from QUB will give a lecture on 'The Age of Female Authors: Women Writers in the 18th Century'. The lecture will mark International Women's Day and also relates to

the current exhibition on women writers in the Library.

**+++ Affirming Catholicism Quiet Day** - The annual Quiet Day of Affirming Catholicism Ireland will take place on Saturday 11 March in St Mary's church, Ballymascanlan, from 10.30am until 3.30pm. The leader will be Revd Garth Bunting, Rector of Drumcondra & North Strand. There is no fee but participants should bring a packed lunch.

**+++ Seminars on Catholic Secondary School ethos** - The Diocese of Elphin and Catholic Schools Partnership cordially invite Catholic Secondary School personnel, parents and Board of Management members to attend one of two Post-Primary Catholic Ethos In-service Evenings (7 - 9.15 pm) in Sligo (Tuesday March 7th) and Athlone (Wednesday March 8th). The Guest Presenter will be Prof. Tom Groome of Boston College. For more details, including travel directions to venues, see [www.elphindiocese.ie/ethos-in-service](http://www.elphindiocese.ie/ethos-in-service). Both evenings are open to Board of Management members, Principals and Deputy Principals, Interested Teachers, Other School Personnel, Parents and Senior Students. All welcome. RSVP: Justin Harkin @ 087 6171526 / [justin@elphindiocese.ie](mailto:justin@elphindiocese.ie)

