



St Patrick's choristers are jazzing up for refugee housing appeal

The choristers of St Patrick's Cathedral will be putting their voices behind Dublin & Glendalough's Diocesan Refugee Housing Appeal with a special concert later this month. 'In Dublin's Fair City' will take place in the cathedral on Friday March 24 at 6.15 pm.

The evening will feature the Cathedral Choristers with special guests, jazz singer/songwriter

Suzanne Savage and Victoria Green on guitar. Admission is free and there will be a retiring collection for the housing appeal which plans to raise €300,000 over three years to support a new housing and integration project being coordinated by the Irish Refugee Council.

The programme, which is suitable for the whole family, includes Irish favourites Danny Boy, Cockles & Mussels and The Lark in the Clear Air alongside insanely toe-tapping Jazz Songs of Innocence by Bob Chilcott and a few very familiar jazz standards thrown in for good measure.

While admission is free, advance registration is recommended. Reserve online for free by clicking: https://stpatrickscathedral.digitickets.co.uk/event/2125657?catID=6441&_ga=1.37691616.1722058316.1459531947

The Cathedral Choristers have been at the heart of St Patrick's since 1432. For nearly 800 years the choristers have sung daily in the cathedral and been educated in the choir school – the last of its kind in Ireland. In addition to singing daily services, the choristers perform regularly in concerts, broadcasts, recordings and tours.

They have released two CDs and a third is due in the autumn.

Suzanne Savage began playing violin when she was eight. She received classical training in school but a more colourful education in gigging with bands in Belfast from heavy rock to funk fusion before moving to jazz and contemporary music. Having become established in the Northern Irish music scene, she won a scholarship to Fabbrica Musica in Italy where she worked with musicians from all over the world. She is currently based between Belfast, Dublin and Karlsruhe in Germany.

Teenagers begin unique concert series in Dublin's Helix

Almost two and a half thousand teenagers from all over Dublin and surrounding counties will be on stage in the Helix over the next four nights – singing and playing Church music.

The students, from 60 different secondary schools, are taking part in the Emmanuel project run by the Archdiocese of Dublin. Beginning tonight (Monday) the concerts run nightly until Thursday.

The concert series is unique in the Irish Church – with students between the ages of 12 and 17

singing music, live in front of a large audience. Each evening performance is almost entirely student led with soloists chosen from participating schools to sing live, musicians performing from the student body and student presenters acting as MC's each night.

This year, for the first time, boys and girls from the Holy Family School for the Deaf in Cabra will together sign and participate in each of the four concerts.

Before getting on stage each day the students participate in faith-based workshops, reflections rehearse hymns and play music. Each morning of workshops is followed by full rehearsals and then a live concert every evening where parents, family members, teachers and the public get to enjoy the fruits of the musical and spiritual preparations.

The students take the music and prayers they learn during the Emmanuel workshops and concerts, use, and adapt them in their own prayer services and liturgies in their school communities throughout the year.

- Details of the 60 schools taking part are available on <http://litmus.dublindiocese.ie/>

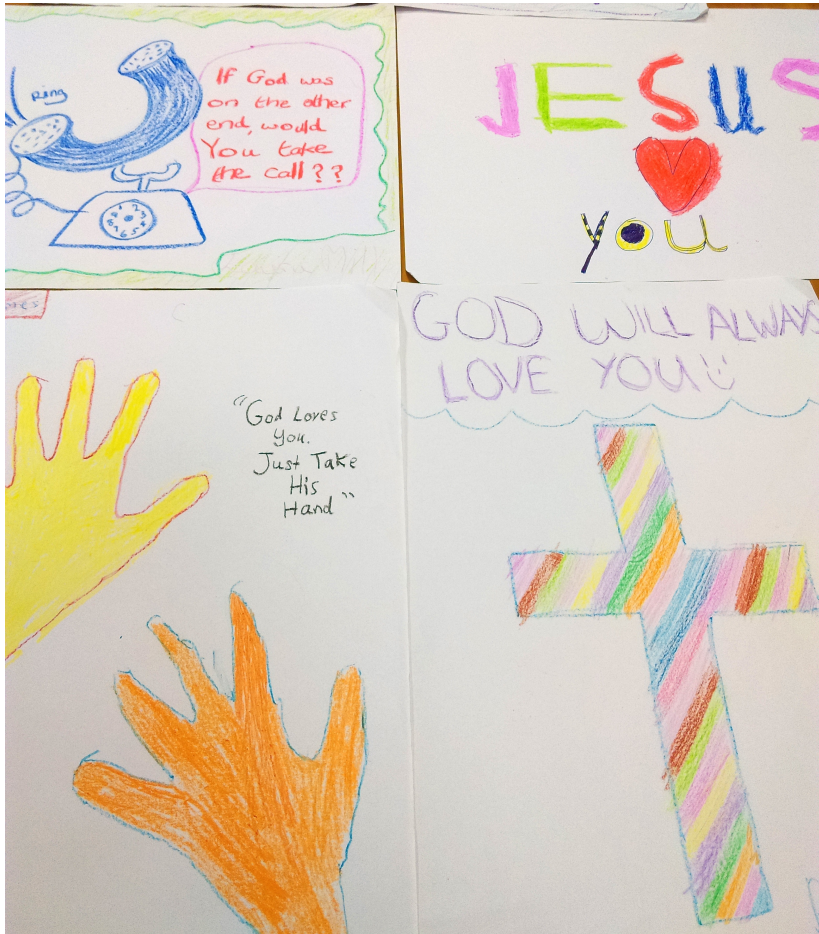
- A limited number of tickets is available for each night from the Helix www.thehelix.ie or call 01 700 7000.
- For a preview of what is in store have a look back here! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Gjo9SxrOFk&t=3s>

Rathfarnham teens explore Anglican 5 Marks of Mission Challenge

Young people in Rathfarnham Parish have been pioneering the new Come & C Confirmation resource. Canon Adrienne Galligan has been working with her 20 Confirmation candidates on the Come & C 5 Marks Confirmation Challenge using the 5 Marks Challenge Pack.

The Come & C discipleship programme is built around the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion. These have been distilled to: Tell, Teach, Transform, Tend and Treasure.

The young people in Rathfarnham Parish who were confirmed yesterday (Sunday March 5) have been focusing on the Tell mark. They have designed posters about an aspect of their faith and they plan to display these on the outdoor



noticeboard in Rathfarnham village over the next number of weeks. Some of the young people were invited to talk to their peers in the confirmation group about their poster and faith.

The candidates received their Come & C wristbands from Archbishop Michael Jackson at

their Confirmation on Sunday to mark their 'witnessing'.

Pictured are just some of the posters that the candidates designed.

You can see more of their work on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/DublinandGlendalough/posts/1256918074344234>



Iona Abbey with Michael Marten (inset)

The Iona Community chooses a new leader

A lay person will lead the Iona Community for the first time from this summer, following the

election of Dr Michael Marten to the role, Life and Work magazine reports.

Dr Marten, who identifies himself as a Presbyterian-Quaker, has been a member of the Community for over 20 years. He is currently employed by the Community as Support Services Manager, before which he taught in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Stirling. He is married to Sigrid, a Church of Scotland minister.

He said: “We face a radically different landscape to when I joined the Community quarter of a century ago, never mind compared to when George MacLeod founded it in 1938. We now live in a post-Christendom and even post-church context: churches are no longer the default for engaging with Christian spirituality.

“Whilst many Members are still very involved in churches, others are just holding on by their fingertips, have left altogether, or have adopted multiple identities – and I’d include myself in these latter groups. These apparent contradictions are to be embraced, not shunned, for they offer us new insights into what Christian life in the twenty-first century could be.

“George MacLeod wrote a prayer in which he urged that we be taken ‘outside holiness, out to where soldiers curse and nations clash at the crossroads of the world’. The Community has always encouraged exploration of what being ‘outside holiness’ means, including new models of community living on Iona and Mull, the creation of new worship resources, new ways of engagement with the global church, and experiments in local activism.

“As we face a resurgent populist right and the increasingly hostile impacts of individualised neoliberalism, the Iona Community can offer an alternative model of human interaction, centred on meaningful relationships where all are welcomed, all are valued, and the crossroads of the world becomes a meeting place, rather than a place of conflict. That, I am convinced, is where we need to be, in Scotland and the UK, in a wider European context, and globally.”

Dr Marten grew up in the UK and Germany, studying theology in both countries. He first worked for the Community on Iona in 1990-1, joining in 1993. He has also working in Jerusalem for a Palestinian development project.

He replaces the Rev Peter Macdonald, whose term as leader comes to an end this summer.

Leaders are elected from the Community's membership of just over 280.

Marlene Finlayson, Convener of the Iona Community Council, said: "Members of the Iona Community can look forward to a dynamic and energetic leadership. Michael brings to the Leadership, not only wide experience of a variety of roles within the Community, but an active commitment to justice, peace and environmental issues, and ongoing involvement in development and campaigning issues, especially related to the wider Middle East and Christian-Jewish-Muslim relations."

The truly compassionate choice is never easy, Catholic bishops tell Citizens' Assembly

In their presentation to the Citizens' Assembly on Sunday (March 5), the Catholic bishops argued in favour of keeping the constitutional protection of unborn life from three different perspectives: individual rights; protection of the defenceless; and the limits of personal freedom.

The presentation, which was given on behalf of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference by Kate Liffey, Ireland's National Director of Catechetics,

also sought to clear up misconceptions about Catholic teaching on the right to life of the unborn.

Firstly, Ms Liffey said: “Our modern culture places a high value on individual rights. That is good. But these are not exclusive. As a progressive and compassionate society we need to remember always the rights of ‘others’. While interrelated, the child is not an extension of the mother. The child in the womb is another human being, another person who possesses his or her own inalienable rights. It is strange that in a culture that values individual rights, the most fundamental personal right of all – the right to life – is increasingly being questioned and denied by some in the case of the baby in the womb.

“While we are all at different points on our life journey, we all have an innate sense of responsibility towards each other, and this includes the vulnerable child in the womb. This human ‘equality’ is at the heart of the positive goal of Article 40.3.3.”

Offering a second perspective for consideration by the Assembly, which met at the Grand Hotel in Malahide, Ms Liffey said: “How a society responds to the weakest and most defenceless is an indication of that society’s level of

humanity. We can think here of the situation of an unborn child with a life-limiting condition. We know from our own families and from our pastoral experience in parishes just how distressing it is for a mother and father to discover that the baby in her womb is seriously ill and, very possibly, may not live. The situation is comparable to that of a born child or adult at an advanced stage of terminal illness.

“One of the particular challenges facing parents of unborn children with life-limiting conditions is the lack of coordinated support for them. We believe a lot more needs to be done to provide appropriate perinatal hospice services, which offer warmth, tenderness, nutrition and hydration and, in that way, support parents in caring for their sick children until natural death. This is a practical suggestion to support parents and their baby in their time of most distress and this, rather than the repeal of Article 40.3.3, should be the focus and determination of government policy.”

She continued: “A third perspective. To make any condition or situation of one human being, even if that situation is difficult and sad, such a priority that it would harm another human being is an essential loss of our own humanity. Some people argue that the right to life of the unborn

should be a matter of personal choice. While we acknowledge the profound pain and anguish of difficult and challenging situations, we cannot support a suggestion that one person can decide when it is time for another person to die. None of us can ever say, 'I'm unlimited, my freedom is unlimited, I can do away with what seems to limit my freedom'. That is a temptation in our world today. However, the truly compassionate choice is never easy and involves sacrifice."

Turning her attention to misconceptions regarding Church teaching, Ms Liffey said: "The Catholic Church has never taught that the life of a child in the womb should be preferred to that of a mother. By virtue of their common humanity a mother and her unborn baby have an *equal* right to life.

"Where a seriously ill pregnant woman needs medical treatment which may, as a secondary effect, put the life of her baby at risk, such treatments are always ethically permissible provided every effort has been made to save the life of both the mother and her baby. Abortion, by contrast, is the direct and intentional destruction of an unborn baby and is gravely immoral in all circumstances. Abortion is not a medical treatment."

She reminded the Assembly that in Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution, it is not the State ‘granting’ the right to life to the unborn. “Rather the State is *acknowledging* that right as a fundamental right, which belongs to the unborn by virtue of his or her being a person,” she said.

Similarly, Ms Liffey said: “Article 40.3.3 does not guarantee, in all circumstances, to be able to defend and vindicate the right to life of the unborn, any more than it can in the case of people who are born and living in any of our villages, towns and cities. The State does, however, guarantee to respect the right to life of the unborn in its laws, just as it does in the case of other persons. The right to life is unique, of course, because, in the absence of that right, no other civil or natural right can be exercised, either now or in the future.

“Article 40.3.3 reflects the appropriate balance of rights of both the mother and baby in the womb.”

GET CNI HEADLINES EACH DAY
on Twitter or Facebook
Click on logo at CNI Home page
www.churchnewsireland.org

Evangelicals must stick with Church despite 'False Teaching' on gay marriage, says C of E bishop

The conservative evangelical bishop Rod Thomas is urging evangelicals to 'stand firm' in the Church of England despite 'false teaching' on gay marriage.

The Bishop of Maidstone and former chair of Reform, a traditionalist grouping, urged evangelicals to 'stick by the ship' despite hints of a shift in attitudes towards gay relationships.

'In the face of false teaching, the Apostle Paul tells Timothy both to keep his distance from it but also to continue in patient teaching,' Bishop Thomas writes. 'He recognises that this may involve suffering.'

The 'floating' bishop, whose position was installed to appease conservatives, offers oversight to those parishes who refuse to recognise female ordination but find themselves under a woman bishop.

Thomas admits a number of his fellow bishops are calling for the Church to be more affirming of



Rod Thomas was appointed Bishop of Maidstone in 2015 to oversee conservative evangelical parishes opposed to women bishops

same-sex relationships but says evangelicals 'are on a different trajectory'.

He writes: 'The time may be on us where individual congregations and parishes have to take fresh steps to show that they are not following the trajectory of others.'

'This may well involve them in difficult decisions, unpopular actions and awkward situations.'

But he urged conservative parishes in general not to abandon the CofE.

'The doctrinal foundations of the Church of England are worth protecting,' he writes.

'If we are clergy, we need to remember that when the Apostle Paul warned of false teachers, he didn't urge the Ephesian elders to run away in order to avoid attack, but instead said 'guard the flock'.

'So we need to stand firm – continuing to teach and do the work of evangelism, continuing to turn up at Synods in order to contend for the gospel, continuing to encourage one another by meeting together, and continuing to support those who run into difficulty.'

Trump visits Catholic school to show support for school choice

US President Donald Trump has visited a Catholic school in Florida to show his support for school choice.

The president was joined at St Andrew Catholic School in Orlando by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, US Senator Marco Rubio and Florida Governor Rick Scott in a tour of the school that started with a visit to a fourth-grade class.



Donald Trump meets students from St Andrew Catholic School in Orlando

The visit, which was private, was described as a listening session.

One of the tour guests was Denisha Merriweather, who attended a private high school through Florida's voucher programme, which she credits with turning her life around.

"We want millions more to have the same chance to achieve the great success that you're achieving," Mr Trump said. The president also told school administrators that "the love you have for what you do is really fantastic", the Associated Press reported.

In his address to Congress last month, Trump said that education was the “civil rights issue of our time” and urged Congress to pass legislation to fund school choice for disadvantaged young people, but he did not offer any details.

St Andrew Catholic School, which opened in 1962, teaches 350 children from pre-K (under five) to eighth grade (aged 13–14). On its website it says: “Our goals are simple: college and heaven.”

The school partners with the University of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education, or ACE, which serves under-resourced Catholic schools.

A statement from ACE said the president’s visit gave the St Andrew’s students “a historic opportunity to share their story with the nation”.

“We are acutely aware that the current political climate is among the most polarised in American history,” the statement said. “These divisions have real implications for relationships here in the St Andrew community.”

It also stressed that “every family has the right to choose the best school for their child” and that “because of the parental choice programme in Florida, this school will continue to empower

families, form faithful citizens, strengthen the Pine Hills community, and provide children with educational opportunities.”

News briefs & Upcoming events

+++ St. Patrick's Day in Clogher - Services - in Devenish Parish Church, Monea at 10.30am., Aghabog Parish Church at 10.30am. Celebration of Holy Communion for St. Patrick in Trory Church at 10.00am. Irish Stew Evening in Sallaghy Church Hall featuring a slideshow of photographs depicting the history of Sallaghy Parish since its founding in 1840.

+++ Rossorry Table quiz - Friday 10th March in Castlehume Golf Club as part of Rossorry Parish Church's 175th anniversary year. Quizmaster: David Wilkinson.

+++ Fundraising Table Quiz and Draw - in The Riverside Bar and Restaurant, Garrison at 8.00pm. Saturday 11th March. Organised by Kiltyclogher Parish Church.

+++ Musical Evening - in Holy Trinity Parish Church, Lisnaskea with the Police Male Voice Choir and other guests at 7.30pm, Saturday 11th March

