



Members of Mothers' Union from Dublin and Glendalough with the All Ireland President Phyllis Grothier, the diocesan President Karen Nelson, Lady Christine Eames, Archbishop Michael Jackson and clergy at the dedication of a tree in All Saints' Raheny to commemorate 130 years of Mothers' Union in Ireland.

Mothers' Union in Ireland begins celebration of 130 years of service

Mothers' Union members from around Dublin & Glendalough and beyond filled All Saints' Church in Raheny on Sunday (May 7) in celebration of MU's 130 years in Ireland. Archbishop Michael

Jackson presided and the guest speaker was Lady Christine Eames, former World President of Mothers ' Union. The service was led by Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain, Canon David Mungavin.

The service also marked the beginning of the Mothers' Union Way which will take All Ireland President, Phyllis Grothier, on a journey around all 12 dioceses of the Church of Ireland to celebrate with members.

Mothers' Union in Ireland was established in Raheny in 1887 by Annabella Hayes, wife of the then Rector, Canon FC Hayes. The service began with prayers at a bench dedicated to the member of Mrs Hayes in the churchyard. Following the service a tree symbolising 13 decades of love and service was dedicated and planted by the Revd Neal O'Raw. Afterwards in the parish hall there was a sweet treat with 13 cakes also representing 13 decades of MU, baked by the diocesan trustees.

In her address Lady Eames said that the anniversary marked a significant time in the life of Mothers' Union, and in the wider Church. She drew on the words: "It doesn't matter how far along the way you have come, be ready for the

gifts, and the new ones, for there is no stopping place”.

She said that Mothers’ Union was not stopping but merely pausing to celebrate the life of Mothers and to celebrate 13 decades of loving and giving. It was a time to give thanks, she said, that 130 years ago Annabella Hayes brought Mothers’ Union to Ireland, it having begun 11 years earlier in Winchester. Since its foundation by Mary Sumner, Mothers’ Union had grown to become a worldwide organisation with four million members in 83 countries bringing positive change to over half a million people every year, she said.

Lady Eames said many would be thinking about the people they had met through Mothers’ Union and the friendships they had made. Others will think of the projects in which MU has been involved and which make such a difference in the lives of so many. She highlighted the local and global nature of the organisation.

“I think of Mothers’ Union as around the corner and around the world. There is such diversity. It is all too easy when you meet in your branch to think that this is the limit of Mothers’ Union. It’s very hard to think that you belong to this global

movement and yet you do. Mothers' Union is bigger than any one branch," she stated.

The world has changed enormously since Annabella Hayes established the first branch in Ireland, Lady Eames observed. There was much talk of the secular nature of today's world and she said members of Mothers' Union must reflect on the challenges that brings and the opportunities for the organisation. "We do what we do to bring the word of Christ to the secular world and to meet the needs of the future," she said.

Following the service, President of Mothers' Union in Dublin & Glendalough, Karen Nelson, thanked the Rector, the Revd Norman McCausland, the parish of Raheny and all who helped with the preparations for the service.

Phyllis Grothier thanked Lady Eames for sharing the message of Mothers' Union and thanked the trustees and members in Dublin & Glendalough for making it such a wonderful occasion. She said that earlier in the spring, the Archbishop of Armagh had challenged Mothers' Union to remember those in the community suffering domestic violence and asked members to think about how they could further this issue, noting that they had already joined the 16 Days of

Activism Against Gender Based Violence. She looked forward to travelling around Ireland for the next two weeks meeting members of Mothers' Union everywhere.

Phyllis Grothier and Lynn Tembey, Worldwide President will spend next week end with members in Derry & Raphoe, Connor and Armagh dioceses.

In Derry members will gather at St Columba's Cathedral and walk to the Guild Hall, later walking over the Pace Bridge to Ebrington. A prayer walk and service will be held in Ballycastle Parish where the first branch in Northern Ireland was established, the second in Ireland, Raheny Parish branch being the first in All Ireland.

Ashers bakery to take gay cake case to Supreme Court

A Christian-owned bakery in Northern Ireland found to have breached equality laws by refusing to make a cake supporting gay marriage is taking its case to the UK's highest court.



Ashers Bakery Company has learned it can appeal to the UK Supreme Court in central London during a two-day hearing scheduled for October this year.

Daniel McArthur, the general manager of Ashers, said: "The fact that the Supreme Court is willing to hear arguments is very encouraging and reflects the importance of the issues and the high-profile nature of the case."

The bakery was approached in May 2014 by gay rights activist Gareth Lee, who placed an order for a cake bearing the slogan "Support Gay Marriage in 2014".

Ashers initially accepted the order, however it contacted Mr Lee two days later to say staff could not proceed with the order due to the message requested.

During the first court case, District Judge Isobel Brownlie ruled the law could not be dictated by religious beliefs and ordered Ashers to pay £500 in damages.

Representing Ashers, Daniel McArthur and his wife Amy took their case to the Court of Appeal in October last year, however the move was unsuccessful.

Launching an appeal, Ashers argued it had not objected to Mr Lee's sexuality, rather the message he had requested for the cake. They argued it was inconsistent with their deeply-held religious beliefs.

Mr Lee, who is a member of the LGBT advocacy group Queer Space, took legal action against Ashers with the support of Northern Ireland's Equality Commission.

Ministering in the Troubles and Working for Peace

“Ministering in the Troubles and Working for Peace” is the focus of a Panel Discussion and Question Time to be held in Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, Belfast on Thursday, 18 May at 8.00 pm.

This is a contribution to the Presbyterian Church's vision for society programme.

Taking part in the panel discussion will be the Very Rev Dr Godfrey Brown, the Rev Dr Lesley Carroll, the Very Rev Dr John Dunlop, the Very Rev Dr Ken Newell and Mr Philip Orr. The event will be chaired by Mr Will Leitch, BBC Broadcast Journalist

Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, is in University Street, Belfast BT7 1HL. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided

Dublin choir making third visit to Raphoe Cathedral

The Choir of St. Paul's Church, Glenageary, Co. Dublin, will present 'An Evening of Choral Music' in St. Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe, on Friday 19th May 2017, at 8.00pm. The evening will also include organ pieces played by Nathan Barrett and flute played by Revd. Nigel Cairns. There will be no admission charge although there will be a retiring collection in aid of Cathedral funds.

This will be the choir's third visit to Donegal. Last year they performed in St. Columb's

Cathedral, Derry–Londonderry. As part of the choir’s visit this year, they will also be leading a service of Choral Matins in St. Eunan’s Cathedral, Raphoe, on Sunday 21st May at 12 noon.

The choir is directed by Nathan Barrett, who is the son of the Dean of Raphoe, the Very Revd. Arthur Barrett and Mrs Brigid Barrett. Nathan studied Music at the University of Ulster in Derry, before completing a Professional Masters in Education at Trinity College, Dublin. As well as directing the choir and playing the organ in St. Paul’s, Nathan teaches music in Alexandra College, Dublin.

Nathan says: “This will be the choir’s third time in the north–west. We love coming to Donegal and Derry – we always receive such a great welcome, and it’s great to share our love of music with others outside of our usual Sunday church setting. Performances like this concert enable us to stretch our own abilities, and challenge us to learn new and interesting pieces. It will also be a real joy to share the Anglican tradition of Choral Matins on Sunday morning in such a wonderful setting as St. Eunan’s Cathedral.”

On Saturday 20th May, Nathan will be conducting a Workshop for Church Organists in St. Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe, from 10.30am to 12 noon. The workshop will provide encouragement and support to those who play the organ for Sunday services in parish churches. It will include tips and hints in accompanying hymns, psalms and canticles, easy ways to musically enhance worship, as well as time to improve playing skills and techniques.

There is no cost for this workshop, so just turn up and enjoy!

For further details, please contact Nathan at barretna@tcd.ie, or ring Dean Arthur at 074 9145226

Belfast Cathedral hosts Primary school choir competition

The St Anne Trust is welcoming pupils and staff from local schools to Belfast Cathedral yesterday and today (May 10 and 11) to compete for the inaugural 'Belfast Primary Schools Choir of the Year' title.

The St Anne Trust was formed in 2016, three years after the establishment of the Cathedral's

Choir Schools Project which introduced children from three north Belfast schools to choral music.

The objects of the Trust are the advancement of education and the promotion of arts, culture and heritage through, among other things, promoting good relations with and between young people and their families, particularly those from communities significantly affected by conflict, diversity or deprivation.

This is achieved by providing a forum which promotes tolerance, respect and mutual understanding leading to development of lasting friendships and providing young people with opportunities to develop their musical and performance skills regardless of their social, cultural or religious background.

The Trust is committed to providing access to music-making to children from all over Belfast through different projects and initiatives. This inaugural School Choir of the Year competition, which takes place in the iconic Cathedral, involves primary schools from all parts of the city and more than 400 children will have the opportunity to perform together at the close of competition on Wednesday.

Eleven schools will compete on Wednesday with special schools competing on Thursday. The adjudicator is Donal McCrisken MA, BMus, MTD, LTCL, Adv Cert Ed.

The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, said: “Believing fervently in the holistic effect of singing together and music-making in general, the Cathedral’s staff and Management Board recognise the social, confidence-building, literary-enhancing effects of choir work, and so we wish to celebrate and encourage everyone in song.”

He commended The St Anne Trust for this initiative and thanked the children and staff of the competing schools for taking part.

C of I seminar on mental health and dementia resource

Over 20 clergy and other church leaders recently attended a seminar on issues surrounding mental health, hosted by the Church of Ireland’s Church and Society Commission (CASC) in Church of Ireland House, Belfast. The third of a series of occasional seminars hosted by CASC, the morning had input from three

speakers, with a particular focus on the area of perinatal and postnatal mental health.

The first speaker was the Revd Dr Pat Mollan, Director of the Church's Ministry of Healing at The Mount, Belfast. Pat spoke broadly on the issue of 'Faith and Mental Health' and the importance of relevant faith intervention through ongoing ministry, but also the importance of not neglecting medical intervention at the same time. Pat also shared from her own experiences with postnatal depression.

The second speaker was Dr John Kyle, a member of a Belfast City Council but, more significantly in this instance, an experienced GP in East Belfast. John brought to bear much of what he has learned through his experience, including a useful description of warning signs and also of some avenues of help, including some self-help resources.

The final speaker was Lindsay Robinson, whose blog 'Have you seen that girl?' has grown into a website and into a movement to campaign for better support for maternal mental health matters. Lindsay spoke powerfully and personally of her own journey with postnatal depression, and also shared testimony of the

importance of her faith – and her struggle in faith – throughout the journey.

The event was opened and closed by the outgoing Chair of CASC, the Revd Adrian Dorrian, who said in his closing remarks: “One of the things that is very apparent from what we’ve heard this morning and from other experiences is that this is an issue we may not always recognise, but one that is a very real part of the life of our parishes. Thanks to those who spoke today for offering us their experience and hopefully helping us as church leaders to be better equipped to help others in the future.”

The Church of Ireland’s Church and Society Commission launched a leaflet on the spiritual care of people living with dementia at the Church of Ireland General Synod, in Limerick, on Thursday, 4th May. The leaflet is also available online at <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/435/spiritual-care-in-dementia>

Primate announced for Sudan—the Anglican Communion's newest Province

The Archbishop of the Internal Province of Sudan and Bishop of Khartoum, the Most Revd Ezekiel Kumir Kondo, has been appointed as the Primate of the newly created separate Province of Sudan. The Anglican Communion announced the creation of the new Province earlier this year and the Archbishop of Canterbury is to travel to the region for the inauguration at the end of July.

Speaking when the new Province was confirmed, Archbishop Kondo expressed joy at the news: "I would like to say that the Christians and the entire people of Sudan are very much looking forward to welcoming the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and Mrs Welby to inaugurate the New Province of Sudan, number 39, which represents 39 Articles of faith of the Anglican Church and the 39 books of the OT! It is my prayer and hope that the occasion will strengthen the church in Sudan for God's glory and extension of His Kingdom."

The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, has described the new Province as a "welcome development" that will help connect Christians there with Anglicans in the worldwide Communion.



The Most Revd Ezekiel Kumir Kondo

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011, which left the Primate of Sudan and South Sudan, Archbishop Daniel Deng, with the challenge of overseeing two countries. The four and a half million members of the Episcopal Church are based mainly in South Sudan. In 2016 a formal application was made by the Primate to the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), for the internal province of Sudan to be granted autonomy; in July 2016 a team led by the Secretary General visited the country on a fact-finding trip. Subjects that were reviewed included staff numbers, financial viability and mission focus, as well as the numbers of lay workers.

When the new Province was announced, Archbishop Josiah said: "It's a welcome development that we now have another Anglican Province in a predominantly Muslim country. We hope the Province will stand and proclaim Christ in a way that will be meaningful in that context. Having Sudan as a separate Province of the Communion will benefit Christians in Sudan; now they will know they are not alone, that they are a part of the worldwide Anglican family."

Today in Christian History, May 11

May 11, 330: Roman emperor Constantine, the first Christian emperor, inaugurates Constantinople as his capital on the site of the Greek city of Byzantium.

May 11, 603: Comgall, founder and first abbot of Bangor, dies. Considered the founder of Irish monasticism. By the time of his death he had exercised oversight of 3,000 monks—including the famous missionary Columbanus .

May 11, 1610: Jesuit missionary Matteo Ricci, the first Catholic missionary to China, dies. Entering the country as a repairer of clocks, Ricci was criticized for becoming a Confucian scholar and allowing ancestor "worship." Though the number of his converts was relatively

small, it included many influential Chinese scholars and families, who played key roles in the future of Christianity in China.

May 11, 1682: The General Court of Massachusetts repeals two 2-year-old laws: (1) a ban on the celebration of Christmas, and (2) capital punishment for banished Quakers who returned to the colony.

May 11, 1825: The American Tract Society organizes in New York City. A leader in developing printing technology, the nondenominational organization was publishing 30 million tracts a year by its sesquicentennial.

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