



**Daily news bulletins will resume on November 24 - please do come back!**

## **Kilkenny C of I Youth weekend success**

The medieval city of Kilkenny nestled against the Nore river and beneath its imposing castle has been the site of the annual Church Of Ireland's residential youth weekend for many years now. With its 6th century St. Canice's Cathedral and round tower the city boasts a truly historic experience. Narrow winding streets, many small shops and ancient buildings complete the unique experience of this place.

Kilkenny College, a large boarding school on the edge of the city was a perfect setting for the Anois residential weekend last month. The college has excellent dormitory, sports, catering and activity halls that provide all the necessary facilities to allow for a variety of activities no matter what the Irish weather has in store.



The theme for the weekend was "Passion". The Mark Ferguson band led worship and the speaker, Jasper Rutherford from Summer Madness, spoke on the passion of Christ for us, our Passion for Him and our passion for the church. 1 John 1:3 "How great is the love of the father which he has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God" was Jasper's opening text as he spoke of God's love for us on the first evening. He followed this by looking at the story of the anointing of Jesus in Matthew 26. We were all challenged as we considered the cost of this anointing and how many were angered at the extravagance of the woman who anointed Jesus. The question for us all was how willing are we to be as devoted in our

commitment and love of Jesus. Jasper's final session was focused on our need to love and respect the church. We all belong to each other as a body with many parts. When we disrespect the church we disrespect ourselves. All three sessions were followed by a time for small group reflection and discussion which were very beneficial as it gave an opportunity for the young people to develop their thinking on the theme. A time to listen to others, ask questions and pray together with their peers and leaders.

Set against this excellent teaching and small group work were the venues available late into the evenings and during the days. Young people could enjoy the games room; pamper zone, prayer space, chill zone, badminton, uni-hoc, rodeo bull and café. There was also a full afternoon of off site activities such as karting, high ropes, zip wire and abseiling, bowling and if you had still some time, shopping!

## Death of former PCI missionary to Malawi

Margaret Young, who served as a PCI missionary in Malawi from 1995 to 2009, passed away last Saturday, 1st November after illness.

In Malawi, Margaret served as a nurse midwife and in palliative care in three different parts of the country.



In the early 1990s, she served for one year as a Midwife in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian's Ekwendeni Hospital.

Then, in 1995 Margaret returned to serve long-term in Ekwendeni Hospital. Margaret served at the hospital for nearly nine years, sharing and experiencing the workload which included annual deliveries of 2,000 – 3,000 babies per year.

During this time, she was involved in patient care, administration, teaching and supervising nursing students and co-ordinating the 'Safe Motherhood Programme'.

In June 2000, she was appointed temporary Midwife 'in-charge' a position she held for the next three years! Margaret was delighted to handover the running of the maternity unit in the hospital in late 2003 to a committed

Christian, one of the newly qualified Malawian Registered Nurse Midwives, whom she had worked with since 1995.

Over the years, Margaret had had a growing concern for those who were terminally ill and how to provide care for them, and after some training, she began working at the hospital's Palliative Care Programme.

In 2004, Margaret moved to southern Malawi to St Luke's Hospital in Zomba, where she worked for two years. There she had responsibilities on the wards, in-service training of midwives and was instrumental in setting up a Palliative Care Programme and an Anti-Retroviral Drugs Programme for pregnant women.

Margaret spent her last year working in Malawi at the Daeyang Luke Hospital in Lilongwe, central Malawi, where she was involved in the setting up of a maternity unit.

Rev Levi Nyondo, General Secretary of CCAP Synod of Livingstonia writes,

*"Ms Young was a great missionary volunteer in the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia.*

*While in Ekwendeni hospital she worked with great dedication, compassion and love.*

*She devoted her life to serving others."*

## **First Female Bishop Receives New Crozier**

The Church of Ireland Bishop of Meath and Kildare, Bishop Pat Storey has been presented with a beautiful new wooden crozier. Made by Mr Robert Dier, a member of Navan Union of Parishes, he presented it to her as a gift from the Navan Union of Parishes at an October Harvest Service in Kentstown.

Since Bishop Pat took up her role as Bishop of Meath and Kildare in November 2014 she has used a very fine diocesan crozier. It was originally designed for use by a 6 foot four inch male.

A Bishop's crozier, known as the pastoral staff, from the Latin pastor or shepherd, is shaped like a shepherd's crook. A bishop carries this staff as a symbol of their role as a 'shepherd of the flock of God'.

Bishop Pat said "I am deeply moved not only by the beauty of this new crozier but also by the thought and care that Bob Dier brought to its creation."

As he presented the crozier Mr Dier described how the various timbers demonstrated the continuity of links within the Dioceses from the 1700's to the present day.



***Bishop Pat Storey receives new crozier from Mr Robert Dier – during Harvest Service in Kentstown (Navan Union of Parishes).***

The crook of the crozier is crafted from a Cedar tree which grew on the grounds of An Tobar, Ardraccon, Navan, for over

200 years. Prior to 1958, An Tobar, was then known as Bishops court, as it was the former residence of the Church of Ireland Bishop of Meath for the previous 73 years.

The section of Yew attached to the crook was sourced from the nearby grounds of Ardraccon House. Ardraccon House was the former Bishop's Palace from the 1770's until 1885 after which the Bishop of Meath moved to Bishops court. The centre section was pruned from a Yew tree growing beside St. Mary's Church, Kilmessan, Co. Meath. This church was built in 1731 by the Preston family of Swainstown, Kilmessan. The last Service in St. Mary's at which Dean Perry officiated was on Trinity Sunday 1966. The Yew in the bottom section of the crozier was sourced from Bettystown from a local wood-turner. The Ebony inserts came from a woodturning supply agent in Kilcock, Co. Kildare. They were turned from Ebony off-cuts from the musical instrument industry.

## **Presbyterian Church in Ireland acquires Lawnfield House residential home in Newcastle**

Since September, the Church's Board of Social Witness has taken responsibility for the home which has 20 rooms, all wheelchair accessible and many with ensuite facilities. Originally the care home was only open nine months of the year from April to October but under the new



management it is now going to be open all year round.

Linda Wray, Residential Services Manager with the Presbyterian's Board of Social Witness said, "We are pleased to acquire Lawnfield House in Newcastle adding to the services we can offer to people with disabilities and their families. We recognise the constant pressures that caring for people long term generates and so we look forward to welcoming both regular and new residents and developing the respite services in the home for their benefit.



"Residents can enjoy comfortable accommodation and 24 hour care lead by the team of dedicated staff. As with all of our residential facilities, the Christian ethos is a central part of Lawnfield House and this will be echoed with daily devotionals for residents who come from a range of denominations. It is a great facility for those looking a break away from home whilst still getting care and attention from our trained staff. A wheelchair accessible minibus is on site so residents can go out for day trips to the local tourist attractions and to the shopping centres in Newry."

Managed by the Presbyterian Board of Social Witness, Lawnfield House is registered and inspected by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority.

For further information, please contact Lawnfield House on +44 (0)28 4372 6860.

## **Prince of Wales's plea to Muslims over Christian persecution**

Prince Charles insists faith leaders must not remain 'silent' over suffering of minorities as the royal says recognising the role of religion is central to 'our future as a free society'

John Bingham, Telegraph: Muslim leaders have a duty to warn their own followers about the "indescribable tragedy" of the [persecution of Christians in the Middle East](#) and around the world, the [Prince of Wales](#) has insisted.

He said that faith leaders must ensure their followers respect believers in other faiths “rather than remaining silent”.

His comments came in a special message recorded for the publication of a new report which concludes that Christians are the “most persecuted religious minority” in the world and that Muslim countries



dominate the list of places where religious freedom is most under threat.

While emphasising the importance of his own personal **Christian** faith, he also signalled that he saw his role as to “defend” followers of other faiths including Islam.

Britain’s “future as a free society” depends on recognising the “crucial role” played by people of faith, he said.

More at

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/prince-charles/11207456/Prince-of-Wales-plea-to-Muslims-over-Christian-persecution.html>

## **Catholic Herald View: Prince Charles is taking a courageous stand for the persecuted**

Religious freedom is shrinking all over the globe. That’s the stark conclusion of a major new report by the charity Aid to the Church in Need. You might think this dramatic story would be on the front pages of all the world’s newspapers. But it seldom is.

Why? Partly because the facts are politically incorrect. According to the report, the most serious violations of religious freedom are committed in majority Muslim countries. The world’s most persecuted minority are Christians. That doesn’t fit the western ideology that portrays Christians, always and everywhere, as moralistic oppressors and Muslims as a victimised minority.

Those who challenge this unthinking assumption are frequently ostracised. [That makes the Prince of Wales’s principled stand this week](#) all the more

courageous. In a video message played at the report's launch, he correctly identified the destruction of Christianity in the Middle East as "an indescribable tragedy".

But while accurately naming the persecutors and oppressors in the Middle East, he didn't fall into the trap of presenting the global struggle for religious freedom as a simplistic clash between Islam and Christianity. As the ACN report makes clear, Muslims are also suffering serious persecution and discrimination, "both at the hands of other Muslims and from authoritarian governments". The battle for religious liberty, therefore, is a fight for the rights of Muslims, as well as Christians.

Prince Charles spoke movingly about how his own Christian faith had enabled him "to speak to, and to listen to, people from other traditions, including Islam". He also endorsed Pope Francis's description of interfaith dialogue as "a duty for all Christians".

That is an implicit challenge to the Church. Inter-religious dialogue is not, to put it mildly, a topic that sets many Catholics' pulses racing. Our hearts are frequently hardened by the accounts of ISIS atrocities in Syria and Iraq. How can we "dialogue" with people who crucify their enemies?

But we must not see all Muslims through the distorting lens of ISIS. We live and work alongside Muslims who are dedicated to prayer, peace and charity. Those are the people we should be engaging in dialogue. As Prince Charles wisely observes: "To do this effectively, with a truly fraternal approach, requires not only maturity in one's own faith, but also an essential humility ... to speak to another faith tradition and to defend those who follow it, it is profoundly helpful to speak from the core of one's own spiritual experience."

The battle to expand religious freedom will be one of the great fights of the 21st century. We are all called to play a part in this great effort.

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2014/11/04/catholic-herald-view-prince-charles-is-taking-a-courageous-stand-for-the-persecuted/>

## **Archbishop Welby praises journalists who 'unlock compassion' in Britain**

The Archbishop of Canterbury today hit out at those who suggest that the inhabitants of the UK can live "as though the rest of the world did not matter." He criticised those who believe that "if we are sufficiently inward-looking, that the rest of the world will not affect us."



Justin Welby praised journalists who challenged the "complacency" of such people, and who "unlock the covers of the wells of compassion" that exist in Britain.

The Archbishop was speaking at the annual service at St Bride's, Fleet Street in London to commemorate

journalists, cameramen and support staff killed while covering wars and other crises around the world.

He has just returned from visiting the 37th of the 37 provinces of the Anglican Communion he pledged to get round by the end of this year. The last province was that in West Africa, covering Sierra Leone and Liberia, the countries worst hit by ebola.

He said: "It is right and essential that in this darkening world we give thanks for those who witness, who light the lamp of truth where it is being snuffed out by so many, not only by savage evil, by those who sell arms and convey lies, but by those who are indifferent and forgetful.

"It is right and essential that we give thanks for those who unlock the covers of the wells of compassion that can become available in this wonderful country of ours, who challenge the complacency in which some people suggest we can live in our own country as though the rest of the world did not matter, and if we are sufficiently inward-looking, that the rest of the world will not affect us."

It was the first time an Archbishop of Canterbury has preached at the service.

Quoting Isaiah 21:6-12, he referred to the recent beheadings of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

"We live in a world at the moment in which in many areas it feels as though the darkness is falling ever more severely on whole swathes and regions of the world, and in which the light of news very often seems to go out. Whole



areas where there is fighting that is forgotten because there is simply so much of it."

The front-line reporter is the one who sees first-hand what is going on, he said.

"They are the look-outs, who stand on the watchtower, day after day and all night long, in the watches of the night."

He recalled as a child being shown a letter from an ancestor who had been in the Charge of the Light Brigade, and wrote to his mother that evening to reassure her that he was alive and unhurt and to describe the battle.

"In those days things were heard by word of mouth, by propaganda. It was the bush telegraph, famously unreliable, exceptionally partial and profoundly delayed."

He singled out a report in The Times on ebola in Freetown and around Sierra Leone for particular praise. "It bore adequate comparison, as a piece of writing, to the description of the plague by Defoe in his journal of the plague year, or Pepys," the Archbishop said, also praising a report on the BBC.

"Last Friday I sat and listened to the Chief of Staff of the UN team fighting ebola, and because of the reporting I was able to sense much more profoundly what he was saying, and to see the urgency of it."

He admitted war reporters are not always saints.

The assembled journalists, editors and photographers laughed when he added: "My experience of a few different areas of fighting and meeting war correspondents leads me to suggest, controversially, that it's just a little bit possible that they are not all entirely saintly at every minute of the day. But there is an old saying in the Church ex operandi operandum. Or to put it another way, the fact that the priest is all messed up does not mess up the sacrament."

The Rector of St Bride's Dr Alison Joyce said: "In a year that has witnessed the brutal murders of James Foley and Steven Sotloff, and in which others working in the field have been killed, injured or taken hostage, the cost of good investigative journalism has never been more apparent. On this sad and proud day, we celebrate the courage and we mourn the tragic loss of those

who have committed their lives to giving a voice to the voiceless, and to telling stories that would otherwise remain untold."

## **Melanesian Brotherhood novice murdered**

A novice in the Anglican Church of Melanesia's Melanesian Brotherhood has been killed and another badly beaten in a street attack in the Solomon Islands last week.

Novice Jackson Lodo and another novice were walking to Tabalia from the capital Honiara when they were the victims of an unprovoked attack on the evening of Thursday 30 October.

Jackson was killed and his companion, a third year novice, was violently assaulted but managed to escape. Radio New Zealand International reported that the survivor is currently in hospital.

The police have mounted a full investigation into the attack which is said to have left the Melanesian Brotherhood in shock but eager that the attack not to lead to further violence.

The funeral for Jackson was held on November 1 and both the Head Brother Matthias Tovotasi, and primate of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia Archbishop Philip Richardson have asked people to pray for the victims, the religious community and the victims' families.

The Melanesian Brotherhood are an Anglican religious community based primarily on the Solomon Islands, but which is expanding into other parts of the world. It was founded in 1900 by a Ini Kopuria, a Solomon Islander on the Island of Guadalcanal.

Learn more about the Melanesian Brotherhood at <http://orders.anglican.org/mbh/>

## **Evangelical Anglican Reflections from Rome**

By Paul Butler, Fulcrum: So what does an evangelical Anglican make of spending two weeks at an Extraordinary Synod of the Church of Rome?

I was at a very nice dinner in the English College early in the second week. Cardinal Vincent Nichols was our host. We were reminded, amidst the splendour of the college and the delights of the hospitality, that forty-one of the first priests who trained here at the end of the sixteenth century were

martyred in England. It was a sobering thought. That week, in our calendar we remembered Ridley and Latimer, similarly martyred a few years earlier under Mary's Catholic reign. Then, right at the end of the week, we remembered the Ugandan martyrs and a point was made publicly that Anglicans were similarly martyred; indeed later that day I had a brief conversations with Pope Francis and he wanted to emphasise to me that the Anglican martyrs were equally to be remembered. We shed each other's blood at one stage; we are bound by common shed blood today.

During the meal I was asked by the two archbishops and priest with whom I shared a table about my own Christian journey. I was able to make a comment about how, in my early years, I could never have imagined being where I sat right then; one archbishop quipped back 'no Christians in Rome, eh?'. It opened up a really good conversation about just how Rome was depicted as almost the great Satan in some pre-millennialist writings of the early 1970s. How the Pope was seen by some as the anti-Christ. But equally how those of us outside Rome were viewed very sceptically indeed. We reflected how much both our personal understandings had changed, but also how much movement there had been at official levels.

One clear illustration was conversations with a variety of those at the Synod about the use of Alpha and the Marriage Course in their many and varied nations. Quite a number had been over for the Alpha Conference and valued it enormously. It was suggested (and it may be true) that around the world more Catholics than Anglicans are engaging in Alpha courses. One archbishop noted how uncertain Nicky Gumbel had been when the idea of Catholics using Alpha was first mooted. How times and events change us.

<http://www.fulcrum-anglican.org.uk/articles/evangelical-anglican-reflections-from-rome/>

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