

**CNI**  
CHURCH  
NEWS  
IRELAND

## **Faith as a Radical Ethic of Political Reconciliation - Edgehill Lecture**



## **Dublin and Glendalough Launches Emergency Gaza Advent Appeal**

The C of I diocese of Dublin and Glendalough has unveiled a new initiative to respond to the crisis in Gaza. The

شكرا Thank You *Shukran*

Gaza Advent Appeal was launched on Tuesday (October 21) at the annual Diocesan Synods and will run in conjunction with a longer term partnership with the Diocese of Jerusalem.

The Advent appeal will raise funds for the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City. It is being run by the Diocesan Council for Mission in partnership with Bishops' Appeal, Us and Friends of Sabeel.

Al-Ahli Arab Hospital was built in 1882 by CMS and is owned and controlled by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. It provides services to all patients regardless of their religion, gender, social class or political affiliation. Following the conflict during the summer, areas of the hospital are no longer safe for patients and there is an urgent need for necessary maintenance.

Announcing the initiative, the Revd Ken Rue (Wickow and Killiskey) stressed that the appeal is non political. He said: "I am sure we were all appalled by the rockets fired into Israel and by the devastating bombing and killing of

innocent lives in Gaza. What should we do in practical terms? The Council, with the agreement and oversight of the Archbishop, decided to invite parties who are knowledgeable concerning the realities on the ground, to join with it to make short and medium-term plans.”

Commending the initiative, Archbishop Michael Jackson said that Christians worldwide were acutely conscious that the theatre of war was right in the crucible of religion and of Christianity. “These people need our prayers, our friendship and our practical help,” he added. “This is a unique partnership opportunity. I hope and pray that the people of these United Dioceses will take this opportunity for meaningful connection and fruitful mission.”

Canon David Moynhan (Kiltarnan and member of Friends of Sabeel in Ireland) pointed out that that there were only 64 days until Christmas, in preparation for which people would spend significant amounts of money. “This Christmas I hope that we can all take on board the Archbishop and Council for Mission’s plan. We’ve all seen the desperate plight of the ordinary people of Gaza ... and even as we remember them in our prayers, the Archbishop and Council for Mission ask us to set apart part of our Christmas spending for these people,” he stated. “This is a challenge and in doing so may we give an account of our faith and not be found wanting.”

Geoffrey McMaster (Celbridge and Straffan with Newcastle–Lyons and Diocesan Representative for Bishop’s Appeal) pointed out that as Christmas approaches our eyes were concentrated on the Holy Land. He said that the challenge was to raise €30,000 by Christmas, which, broken down, was not much more than individuals pay for Sunday newspapers. This was an opportunity to show we care for our neighbour and for the people of the dioceses to make a difference, he added.

Supporting the initiative, Olive Good (Diocesan Councils) said: “As you go about your Christmas shopping, how about putting aside money that you would spend on a present and setting a space at your Christmas table for an imaginary Gaza guest – what a powerful impact we could have on people’s lives there.”

## **In Derry and Raphoe we have a positive sense of belonging - Bishop Good**

In his Presidential Address at the Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Synod, yesterday Bishop Ken Good said: “There is an enormous need for people whose hearts are motivated by loving compassion to step up and to step out in generous self-giving in the service of others. Christian churches are producing and equipping such people.”

Bishop Good said, “In Derry and Raphoe we have a positive sense of belonging, of togetherness as a team, a family. A family in which, yes, we’re aware of our differences but in which we also respect and value one another. Conflict and tensions are an integral part of any family’s experience, so we accept the challenge of dealing with them with as much maturity, wisdom and compassion as possible. There is often a feeling of joy; we have been known to have a sense of humour, and we even have fun at times! We are a diocesan family and, as such, we have a desire to grow and to grow closer.



“Families are not to live for themselves. Their members grow and develop so that they can make a valuable contribution to wider society. Our diocesan family worships, prays and learns together and then, as individuals, we go out to serve in a myriad of different roles and jobs and positions in the community.

“In this diocese, we have set ourselves the goal of being a church which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, is part of Transforming Community Radiating Christ.” Ecumenical guests welcomed by bishop Good were - Revd Peter Murray, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Fr Michael Canny, from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Derry, representing Bishop Donal McKeown, and Revd John Hanna, Moderator of Derry and Donegal Presbytery

Full text of Bishop Good’s address at - <http://ireland.anglican.org/news/5378>

## **Faith as a Radical Ethic of Political Reconciliation**

The Rev Dr Johnston McMaster will deliver a lecture on ‘Faith as a Radical Ethic of Political Reconciliation’ on Friday 21 November at 7 pm at Edgehill Theological College, 9 Lennoxvale in Belfast.



Gladys Ganiel writes - McMaster is sure to provide plenty of food for thought for those pondering how their faith can make a difference in Northern Ireland's somewhat stalled, and rather messy, post-violence transition.

The official screening of the animated film *Choose*, which was produced by the Edgehill Reconciliation Programme, will also take place.

Refreshments will be offered before the lecture starts. You can RSVP to Ashleigh Hunter on 028 9066 5870

or [office@edgehillcollege.org](mailto:office@edgehillcollege.org).

An ordained minister in the Methodist Church in Ireland, McMaster was a lecturer and co-ordinator of the Irish School of Ecumenics' adult education programme, [Education for Reconciliation, which was wound down after a 15-year run](#). This programme was located within the Belfast campus of Trinity College Dublin, the Irish School of Ecumenics, where I also work on the Master's in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation.

McMaster is now an Adjunct Assistant Professor with the Irish School of Ecumenics and is also working with the Junction in Derry/Londonderry on its project on 'Ethical and Shared Remembering.'

He is a regular presenter at international conferences and has been especially involved with South Korea and Sri Lanka. His areas of interest are peacebuilding, reconciliation, restorative justice, Irish history, contextual theology, socio-political hermeneutics and Celtic Christianity. He has written extensively, and is the author of books such as [Overcoming Violence](#), and [A Passion for Justice: Social Ethics in the Celtic Tradition](#), and [various new publications associated with the Junction's 'Ethical and Shared Remembering' project](#). He has also co-authored (with Cathy Higgins) *Signing the Covenant: But Which One?* and *Communities of Reconciliation*.

The Edgehill lecture is given in memory of the Rev Dr Dennis Cooke, a former Principal of Edgehill College.

<http://www.gladysganiel.com/uncategorized/johnston-mcmaster-lecture-faith-as-a-radical-ethic-of-political-reconciliation-21-november/>

## Report highlights lay peoples' view of C of I in Dublin and Glendalough

A snapshot of parish life in Dublin and Glendalough has been captured in a new booklet which was launched at Diocesan Synods yesterday evening (October 21). *Come&C* contains material which was gleaned from the diocesan Vision and Mission Survey initiated by Archbishop Michael Jackson in the spring of this year.

Lay people of the dioceses were asked to respond to a series of questions about parishes. Over 79 percent of parishes responded and their comments have been compiled into a booklet

In his forward to *Come&C* the

Archbishop states that

the material shared by the parishes gives voice to the aspirations and the achievements of parish communities the length and breath of the dioceses. He added that parishioners have also raised warning signs and concerns.

*Come&C* was launched by Sam Harper, one of the Lay Honorary Secretaries of General Synod. He said he was greatly encouraged by the possibilities the resource offered to the dioceses. He contrasted the research for *Come&C* with last year's Church of Ireland census.

"Many of you will know that the Church of Ireland undertook a census almost a year ago. That exercise showed some encouraging facts, but also identified



**COME&C**  
REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN  
PARISH SURVEY  
2014

***"To use this book to its full potential, I encourage each one to read it positively and look for the opportunities for service and growth in your own lives, in each of your own parishes and in your Dioceses and that you will go forth in the encouragement that this will bring to be better servants of Christ following your own faith," - Sam Harper***

some challenges and even set alarm bells ringing in some quarters. It, as with all such efforts, only dealt with statistics and numbers,” Mr Harper stated. “The research for this report went behind the mere figures and sought to determine the activities at parochial level that caused the very heartbeat of the diocese to tick. If we take the Church to be a gathering of like minded people who meet together for worship and support, then it is very important to conduct a serious self examination to ensure that we are empathizing with those in our charge and relevant to their needs.”

More at -

[http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2014/10/Come-and-C-Highlights-Parish-Activities-Which-Form-the-Heartbeat-of-Dublin-and-Glendalough.php?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=facebook](http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2014/10/Come-and-C-Highlights-Parish-Activities-Which-Form-the-Heartbeat-of-Dublin-and-Glendalough.php?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook)

## **Welcome for new Education Authority in N Ireland by Bishop of Derry & Raphoe**

Bishop Ken Good addressing the diocesan Synod during the debate of the Board of Education, said - “I welcome the fact that the Executive has at last agreed to the establishment of a single Authority to oversee the administration of education.

“A highly significant aspect of the proposed Education Bill is the Minister’s commitment to fund a sectoral support body for Controlled Schools. This provision is well overdue and should prove highly beneficial in remedying a long-standing deficit in this sector.

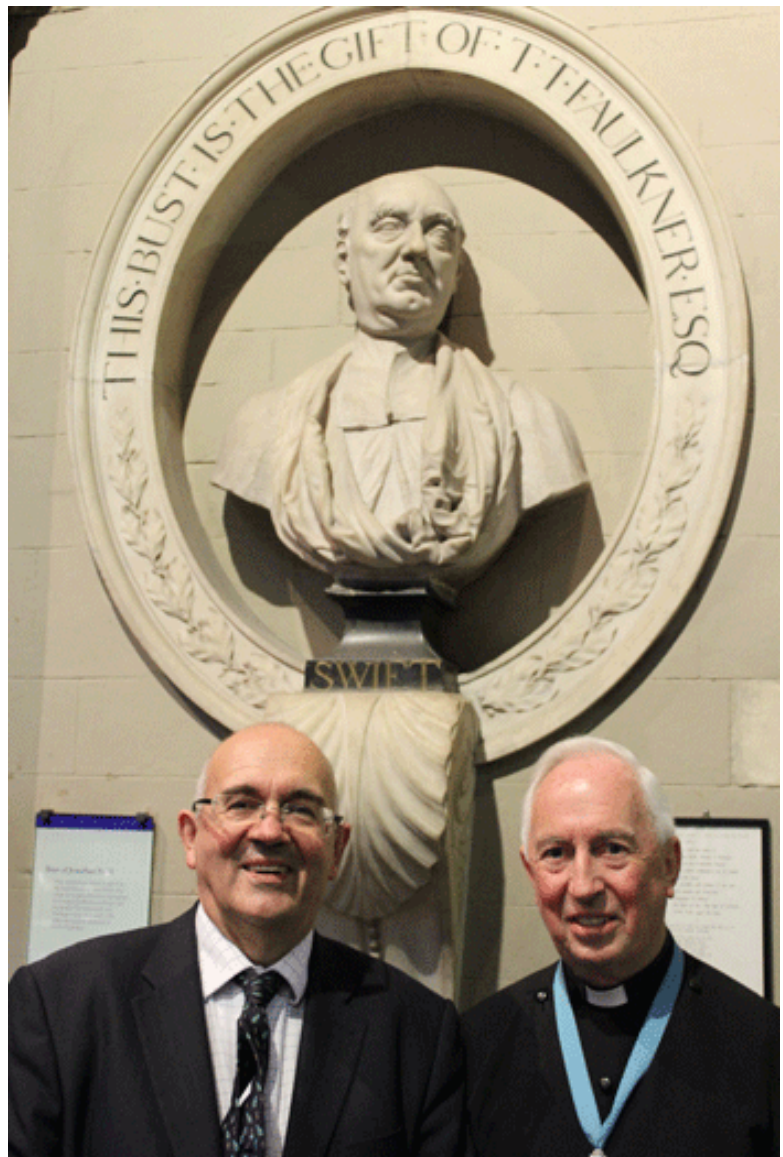
“In recent years, as overall pupil numbers have been falling, many non-selective secondary schools have been facing a doubly challenging situation; on the one hand, their student enrolment has fewer academically able students (as Grammar Schools fill their places to capacity) and on the other hand there are more students with special needs in main-stream education – but often without adequate funding for additional support.

“The new sectoral support body will have a particular role to work with the Education Authority to raise educational standards in Controlled schools. This support will be vital in improving educational outcomes for children in schools coping with these pressures and where under-achievement is a serious and well-documented issue. The body will also have an advocacy role – acting as a champion for controlled schools, promoting good practice and representing the sector in area based planning. It is a most welcome development for controlled schools.”

## Swift Service, St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin

The Annual Swift Service of Evensong took place at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday past (19th October). It followed the annual Swift Symposium which took place in the Deanery on Saturday 18th. The address at this year's service was given by Professor David Hayton, until very recently Professor of Early Modern Irish and British History and Director of the Board for Theology at Queen's University, Belfast.

Professor Hayton (*pictured above at the Swift memorial with Dean Victor Stacey*) is also a member of the Church of Ireland's Historical Centenaries Working Group – and will chair the upcoming 'Ethics of War' event in the Music Room of Christ Church Cathedral Dublin on 19th November.



**Professor Hayton at the Swift memorial with Dean Victor Stacey**

At the Swift Service several boy choristers were presented with medals for their contribution over the last year to the Choir in St Patrick's

## Gay Catholics slam Church for scrapping plans to 'welcome homosexuals'

[PinkNews.co.uk](http://PinkNews.co.uk) - A number of Catholic gay groups have expressed disappointment at the Church's decision to scrap plans to relax anti-gay policies. At a synod on 'family values' held the past fortnight, a proposal document said the Catholic Church must learn to respect the positive aspects of gay couples.

In a second draft, [watered down to appease more conservative bishops](#), the section originally titled “welcoming homosexuals was retitled “providing for homosexual persons”, and the overall tone of the document became less accepting.

However, even with the changes, the proposal yesterday failed to pass a vote of bishops with a two-thirds majority, and was stripped from the final report – meaning that the Church will maintain its current policy, which teaches that homosexuality is ‘intrinsically disordered’.

Francis DeBernardo, of New Ways Ministry said: “The synod’s final report significantly backtracks on LGBT issues from the draft released earlier this week.

“It’s very disappointing that the Synod’s final report did not retain the gracious welcome to lesbian and gay people that the draft of the report included.

“Instead, the bishops have taken a narrow view of pastoral care by defining it simply as opposition to marriage for same-gender couples.

“One major error the bishops made in the final report was to quote the Vatican’s 2003 document condemning same-gender marriage, which referred to adoption by gay and lesbian couples as a form of ‘violence’ toward the children.

“Such language is pastorally harmful and destructive to any welcome to lesbian and gay people.”

Kieran Rose of Ireland’s Gay and Lesbian Equality Network said: “This Synod of Bishops has missed the opportunity to reflect and embrace the very positive changes in attitude towards lesbian and gay people that have come about over the last 20 years.

“It is disappointing that the majority of the Synod chose not to reflect reality, and that elements within the Catholic Church continue to say to lesbian and gay people, and to their parents and families, that they are not welcome.”

More at -

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2014/10/19/gay-catholics-slam-church-for-scraping-plans-to-welcome-homosexuals/>

## **Salisbury in top 10 cities in the world to visit**

BBC/Tel - The Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam describes Salisbury as one of the loveliest places on earth in a piece for BBC Online, written after the city was named among the top 10 cities in the world to visit. Harry Mount, writing in the Telegraph, also



writes in praise of Salisbury and its cathedral.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/art/architecture/11178044/Were-truly-blessed-with-our-cathedral-cities.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-29706383>

## **Criticism of plans to charge visitors to Glasgow Cathedral**

Times/BBC/Express - Reports on criticism of Historic Scotland's plans to charge visitors to Glasgow Cathedral. The Government funded quango announced yesterday that entrance fees of between £4 and £5 will be imposed from April next year, it is reported, helping to pay for the maintenance of the cathedral.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4243876.ece>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-29705609>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/525782/Glasgow-Cathedral-start-charging-entry-visitors>