

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has refused “to remain silent” on San Suu Kyi



Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu has called on Aung San Suu Kyi to bring an end to military-led operations against Myanmar’s Rohingya minority.

Critics have slated the Burmese leader for not speaking out against the violent persecution of Rohingya Muslims.

In an open letter that he posted on Facebook to his fellow Nobel prize winner, the 85-year-old South African archbishop said,

“I am now elderly, decrepit and formally retired, but breaking my vow to remain silent on public affairs out of profound sadness”.

There have even been calls for her Nobel peace prize to be revoked, however, the overseeing organisation that this cannot be done.

Archbishop Tutu has now added his voice to many others who have called on Aung San Suu Kyi to do more to protect Myanmar’s persecuted Muslim minority.

The United Nations now estimates that well over a quarter of a million refugees have crossed over into Bangladesh.

A spokeswoman for the UN high commissioner for refugees, Vivian Tan, told Agence France-Presse,

“The numbers are so alarming. It really means we have to step up our response and that the situation in Myanmar has to be addressed urgently.”

Archbishop Tutu ended his letter by saying, "As we witness the unfolding horror we pray for you to be courageous and resilient again. We pray for you to speak out for justice, human rights and the unity of your people. We pray for you to intervene in the escalating crisis and guide your people back towards the path of righteousness.

"God bless you."

Pope brings reconciliation message to Columbia

Pope Francis has helped unify victims of Colombia's 50-year conflict with their former persecutors, presiding over a prayer for reconciliation.

In his 5 day pilgrimage to the nation, he prayed with victims urging them to overcome their grief by forgiving their assailants.

He also pressed the ex-fighters to have the boldness to request that forgiveness from their previous victims.

"As we look at it, we remember not only what happened on that day but also the immense



suffering, the many deaths and broken lives and all the blood spilled in Colombia these past decades," Francis said.

He embraced both victims and perpetrators, saying families deserved to know the fates of missing relatives and children recruited to fight. However, he added that the truth should never lead to revenge.

Pope Francis had promised to visit the country after signing last year's peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Before the event, the former rebel commander of the FARC published a public letter to Francis, asking for forgiveness.

Rodrigo Londono, better known by his nom de guerre Timochenko, is undergoing medical treatment in Cuba following a stroke and said he was unable to be present.

In another sign that the Pope's message of reconciliation may be getting through to the deeply polarised nation, the mayor of Medellin said President Juan Manuel Santos would pray on Saturday at a Mass in Colombia's second-largest city with his predecessor and arch-rival, Alvaro Uribe.

Previously the two had refused to appear together at any papal events.

Dalai Lama: 'We should think about our common humanity – not Derry or Londonderry

Nobel Peace Prize laureate the Dalai Lama said developed countries are in “crisis” as he urged a greater sense of compassion and love during a visit to Northern Ireland on Sunday.

The spiritual leader of Tibet (which was subsumed into China in the 1950s) called for a



Children in Crossfire CEO Richard Moore alongside the Dalai Lama at the Millennium Forum, during a visit to Londonderry.

century of peace during a visit to Londonderry as a guest of charity Children in Crossfire.

The Buddhist monk said thinking which led to warfare was “outdated”, referring to fighting in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere.

He condemned fighting in the name of religion in Northern Ireland too – and mentioned in particular the role of Buddhists in the violence now engulfing parts of Myanmar (a

predominantly Buddhist country, also known as Burma)

There, members of the Rohingya Muslim minority are fleeing an onslaught by the military, which had been sparked initially by Rohingya insurgent activity.

The 82-year-old spiritual Buddhist leader said: “Even some Buddhists in Burma are harming some Muslim brothers and sisters.” He tutted, shook his head, and declared this “unthinkable”.

Speaking in heavily-accented English, he told the audience: “Our goal should be a century of peace, a century of dialogue based on a sense of oneness of seven billion human beings.”

He said that global warming will cause natural disasters to increase. Coupled with a growing global population, he said this means the time has come where human beings must “work together – think about humanity, not ‘my nation’,” he said.

“Not ‘Londonderry’ or ‘Derry’,” he added, playfully slapping Richard Moore, the charity’s director who was sitting beside him.

Speaking in support of international co-operation, the Dalai Lama said: “I am one of the admirers of the European Union.” He said if there were no EU, then there would have been bloodshed over the last few decades among member states.

He suggested that at some stage – not in his lifetime – China and India could join together as part of a similar union in Asia, adding: “That is the guarantee for peace.”

Archbishop of Dublin preaches at British Irish Association Service

Archbishop Michael Jackson preached in Downing College, Cambridge, this morning (Sunday September 10) as part of the British Irish Association’s annual meeting.

The British Irish Association invites people involved in politics, society and churches to meet for a forty-eight hour period residentially in a college in Cambridge or Oxford each year.

It provides an opportunity in a safe space and a trusting environment to discuss contemporary issues of concern to people in England,

Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The Archbishop preached on the subject of leadership. He suggested that leadership could come from everywhere but must be connected to service.

The text of his sermon is available at -

<https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2017/09/10/archbishop-of-dublin-preaches-at>

C of I Biblical Association Lectures on the Five Marks of Mission

The subject of the Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland's AGM Lecture next Wednesday, which will take place in Castleknock Parish Centre at 7.30pm, will be 'The Church in Today's World: Engaging with the Five Marks of Mission'. The Five Marks of Mission, as identified in the Anglican Communion, will be explored biblically in five brief presentations.

'Tell' – to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom – will be addressed by the Revd Jack Kincaid; 'Teach' – to teach, baptise and nurture new believers, by the Revd Lesley Robinson; 'Tend' – to respond to human need by loving

service by Philip McKinley; 'Transform' – to transform unjust structures of society, and pursue peace and reconciliation by Canon Paul Houston; 'Treasure' – to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the Earth by David Ritchie.

Attendance at the 'Five Marks of Mission' presentation is free to paid-up members of BACI. Admission charge for non-members: €5. The AGM will follow at approximately 8.45pm.

Look forward in faith" Worldwide President tells Mothers' Union Dublin

Mothers' Union members in Dublin & Glendalough continued their celebration of the organisation's 13 decades of love and service in Ireland at their diocesan Festival Eucharist in Christ Church Cathedral yesterday evening (Thursday September 7). The service was celebrated by Archbishop Michael Jackson and the address was given by Mothers' Union Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey.

The service was also attended by Mothers' Union All Ireland President, Phyllis Grothier and Anne Griffin, General Manager of the World Meeting of Families. During the service the diocesan Mothers' Union Trustees were



The newly commissioned trustees of Dublin & Glendalough Mothers' Union with their All Ireland and World wide Presidents

commissioned by the diocesan chaplain, Canon David Mungavin.

In her address, Mrs Tembey hoped members had reflected and thanked God for all that members of Mothers' Union who had gone before, considered the present and looked to the future asking God's blessing on all their initiatives. She said it was important to remember that Mothers' Union members shared their unity and diversity in Christ. There were four million Mothers' Union members worldwide and

they had an opportunity to impact so many people's lives.

She said that for most people, their homes were places where love and respect is shown. They were safe havens of love, comfort and safety.

However, she said that for some, home was a fragile place. The mudslides in Sierra Leone, the floods in Asia and Texas, Hurricane Irma in the Caribbean, people fleeing persecution – people living in these areas could not say that home was a place of safety, she said.

For others home was a place of fear and abuse. “We hear so much now about gender based violence and I am so glad that Mothers’ Union worldwide is working to lobby governments on this. Our calling is to support families wherever they are in the world,” Mrs Tembey stated.

Highlighting the plight of children without parents, child labourers, child refugees in Britain and Ireland, she said Mothers’ Union was called to reach out and offer unconditional love.

“Mothers’ Union is internationally recognised and locally relevant, reaching out in love and service,” she stated. She suggested that Mothers’ Union had stayed true to Mary Sumner’s ideals of winning homes for Christ.

Referring to the Gospel reading [Luke 5: 1–11] she asked what Jesus' words to the fisherman said about encouraging others to join Mothers' Union. "How do we fish for membership of Mothers' Union?" she asked. "We need to challenge how we do things. Are we willing to change? Are we willing to adapt? Will our nets be so heavy that we need to call others to help us bring in the catch?"

"I encourage the Mothers' Union members in Dublin & Glendalough to look forward in faith, hold fast to what you know to be true and follow the way the Lord is guiding you. Then you will be blessed in ways you never imagined you would be," the Worldwide President concluded.

Record support for St Luke's Home, Cork's Annual 5K Memorial Run

On a perfectly still, warm and dry Thursday evening, 7th September, St Luke's Home, Cork hosted its 3rd Annual 5K Memorial Run.

Established in 2015 as an event for remembering residents who have died, the Memorial Run has been sponsored for 3 years by local companies RCI and RDJ (Ronan, Daly Jermyn, Solicitors)



Jerry Forde, winner of the wheelchair athlete category for the third time!

who, between them, cover the costs and the prizes. This means that every €10 paid by 553 participants, along with donations, goes directly to improve and enhance quality of life for residents at St Luke's.

This year was made even more special as, due to the excellent weather condition some of the residents themselves took part, in their wheelchairs, flanked by volunteers. This made the event very personal and showed participants who they were helping. The impact was palpable.

Set on their way by famous duo Rob and Marion Heffernan, the runners, walkers and wheelchair entrants took off on the Skehard Road, making their way up to Blackhall Place and then down onto the pedestrian walkway which took them all the way around the line, finishing at St Luke's Home.

The prize-giving followed in Northridge House, at the Home, with all participants (including residents!) back on time for the presentation! The winning male with an amazing time of 14.56 was Chris Mintern, followed by Mark Hoey in 15.36 minutes and Michael Bruton in 3rd position in 15.46 minutes. Laura Crowe was the fastest female with a time of 16.15, followed by Sinead O Connor (16.57) and Emma Murphy (17.05). Category prizes were also presented and of course a prize for Jerry Forde the winner of the wheelchair athlete category for the 3rd time! This Memorial Run brings all stakeholders involved in providing services to residents at St Luke's together in a fitting, fun and visible way. Already everyone is looking forward to next year!

Limerick appointment

The Revd. Charles McCartney is to be appointed Priest-in-Charge for Clonfert Group of parishes.

Mr McCartney grew up in St Elizabeth's Parish Dundonald in Belfast and was for a period a chorister in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast. Since his ordination in 1985 has served in a variety of parishes in both Armagh and Down and Dromore dioceses, as well as 15 years as a British Army chaplain.

He is married to Cecelia since 1988 and they have 5 adult children and 5 grandchildren.

A Service of Welcome for Mr McCartney will be held on Friday 22nd September at 8 pm in St Paul's Church, Banagher.

C of E's floating church to take the Gospel to London's canals

The Church of England has launched a pioneering new initiative to bring its message to a sometimes forgotten demographic – those who dwell not on land, but on the water.

The Diocese of London has commissioned the construction of a church-boat that will sail through East London's canal network, according to **The Telegraph**



Concept art for the new church vessel, showing its expanding 'concertina' roof.

The ecclesial vessel, designed by the architects Denizen Works, will operate in the area's canal network near Newham's Olympic Park. It is designed to look like a conventional barge, but will include an expanding, concertina-style roof akin to the sleeping berths in a VW camper van, which will give the 650 square foot barge extra space.

The diocese said that plans for a floating church community have been under consultation during the summer. They have sought planning permission from Newham Council to moor the

boat at various points along the canal, from the River Thames to the Olympic Park.

The Bishop of Stepney, Adrian Newman, told the **East London Advertiser** in July: 'A floating church in East London shows the way the diocese is seeking to spread its ministry and support communities. The design is a "vision" to become a reality.'

The vessel is yet to be constructed. But while it awaits completion another famous boating venue, West London's 'floating classroom' Elsdale II would be used instead.

Elsdale II is an electrically powered barge used for **schools and community events**, and has been active for more than a decade.

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