



Sr. Mary Owens, receives an award from the Kenyan Ministry of Health, see report this issue

Brother David stepping down as Director of Divine Healing Ministries

In a letter this week, Canon Brother David Jardine, SF, states that he will be stepping down

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as Director of DHM. Brother David who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination earlier this year, is approaching his 75th birthday.

He writes, “I am putting down in writing what I announced at all the services last week, that I feel in my spirit that it is the right time to hand over the reins as Director of Divine Healing Ministries to our Deputy Director, Fergus McMorrow. Fergus is a good man, easy to work with, very capable, a very Godly man, good speaker, a gift from God to DHM.

“I will remain as Director until the end of this year, but I will still be around after that. I will continue to take the service in St. George's on a Monday, I will also preach from time to time in both the Cathedral and St. Finnian's, I will be available to Fergus if I can help him with anything, but in the New Year he will be the Director.

“The important thing is that DHM will continue to be strong. We have made a lot of plans to ensure that this will be so. Fergus and I have done a lot of planning together and will continue doing so to make sure that the handover will be smooth. He has a good team around him.

“I will have an opportunity to say more in the weeks to come but in the meantime may I say how grateful I am to all of you for your kindness and support over the last 25 years. This ministry could not have grown and thrived without you.”

Archbishop and President MCI : Government must take brave decisions on homelessness crisis

The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, and the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Rev Dr Laurence Graham, have issued the following joint statement on the homelessness crisis:

‘We welcome the Government’s decision to convene an emergency housing summit this week to address the escalating homelessness crisis. Our hopes and prayers are that all who are involved in these talks will devote their energy and efforts to finding an innovative, well thought out, structured resolution for all those who are most deeply affected by homelessness.

‘While accepting that homelessness has many causes and there is no “one size fits all solution”, we believe it is imperative that the Government takes the brave decisions needed to tackle the

crisis that has been an increasing scandal for our country. The flow of families and individuals into homelessness must be addressed urgently.

‘We express our sorrow at the recent deaths of people who have become homeless. We also continue to pray for all who are affected by homelessness and those who seek to serve them. We appeal for constructive compassion as a matter of extreme urgency.’

Songs of Praise to record in Enniskillen and Dungannon this month

The popular BBC One television programme Songs of Praise is coming to Enniskillen and Dungannon later this month.

The programme will record at St Macartin’s Cathedral in Enniskillen on September 27 from 6.30pm to 9.30pm and the following day at St Patrick’s Church in Dungannon at the same time.

Series executive producer Emyr Afan said: “This recording is a wonderful opportunity for local singers to come together for an evening of music-making for broadcast on BBC One.”

To get involved, send your name and the number of people taking part to SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv with Enniskillen or Dungannon as the subject header, or call 0161 873 7073.

‘Change in stance’ on Donegal Col hospital chapel

A Catholic priest in Donegal says the Irish health service is changing its stance on plans to close a Church of Ireland hospital chapel – due to News Letter coverage of the matter.

Fr John Joe Duffy from Stranorlar contacted the News Letter on Monday to express “horror” that the Church of Ireland (Col) chapel that has been in Stranorlar Community Hospital for over 50 years is to be axed in a replacement building. A Catholic chapel is to be retained.

On Tuesday the HSE responded that architects had “recommended the relocation of the Church of Ireland chapel within St Joseph’s” and that there is “no question of downgrading or eliminating access to religious facilities”. The HSE will consult with residents, families and relevant churches “when definite plans are being draw up” it added.

However, Fr Duffy responded that final plans had been publicly approved by minister Joe McHugh in April and July.

"I do believe the HSE is changing its stance in light of the News Letter coverage," he said. "It is issuing press statements hand over fist but they have still not formally engaged with the one person they need to engage with – [Col] Rev Adam Pullen."

New Archbishop of Wales named

John Davies, the current Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, has been elected as the next Archbishop of Wales, succeeding Dr Barry Morgan.

The selection of Archbishop John marks the first time a bishop from his diocese has been chosen as the Archbishop of Wales.

Dr John said: "I am overwhelmed and humbled. I would like to thank members of the College and especially my fellow bishops for the confidence and trust they have shown in me.

"We will work together as a team to grow and strengthen the Church as it serves the



communities of Wales and helps build the kingdom of God."

John Davies will juggle the new role with his current position, which he has held for nine years. Details are expected in due course of his enthronement service at Brecon Cathedral.

Dean of Brecon, Dr Paul Shackerley said: "I am delighted with the news that Bishop John has been called to be our next Archbishop.

"He has proven gifts and experience to lead the Church into the future and will receive our full support and prayers he prepares to exercise his weighty, yet joyful, archiepiscopal ministry.

"I feel the future of the Church in Wales is in good hands with all our faithful Bishops, to lead us with hope into the future that we may flourish and serve the communities in which we are called."

During a secretive meeting at Holy Trinity Church in Llandrindod Wells, Archbishop John secured the necessary two-thirds majority of votes from members of the Electoral College.

Born in Newport and educated as Bassaleg Grammar School, Archbishop John read law at the University of Southampton, before being admitted as a solicitor in 1977.

In a career change, he became ordained in 1984 before being going on to be appointed Dean of Brecon in 2000. Archbishop John was named Bishop of Swansea and Brecon in 2008.

Irish Loreto Missionary, Sr. Mary Owens, receives a State Recognition Award in Kenya

Irish Loreto Missionary, Sr. Mary Owens, has been presented with an award by the Ministry of Health in Kenya in appreciation of her timeless

service and dedication to the country's Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) Programme. The Programme provides quality HIV care, treatment and support to those infected or affected by HIV and is part of the ministry's National AIDS and STI Control Programme. Over 200,000 children under 14 years are infected with AIDS, and it is estimated that 1.1 million children are orphaned due to AIDS in Kenya.

Sr. Mary, who is a native of Dublin, arrived in Kenya in 1969. She holds a BA degree in education from UCD and an MA in education and counselling from TCD.

Along with an American Jesuit priest doctor, Fr. Angelo D'Agostino, she set up Nyumbani Children's Home in a rented house in Westlands, Nairobi in 1992 because orphanages in Kenya were turning away infants with HIV / AIDS. Today, under Sr. Mary's leadership four programmes provide care for over 4,000 children infected or affected by HIV.

Nyumbani – meaning home in Swahili - includes four cottages and a dormitory, medical clinic, pharmacy, youth centre, community centre, playground, library, computer centre, kitchen, laundry, kitchen, farm, pig and poultry pens, water supply, and a greenhouse.

It also includes the Lea Toto Outreach Programme which helps HIV-positive children and families in the wider community, and a diagnostic laboratory - grant aided by Misesan Cara - which has high-tech equipment allowing faster and more accurate HIV/AIDS diagnosis and testing. In 1999, with funding from USAID, *Lea Toto* became a full community-based care programme charged to carry out a project targeting HIV positive children in the Kangemi slums of Nairobi, and now supports over 3000 children.

Nyumbani has grown to become an environmentally sustainable and economically self-reliant community under Sr. Mary's expert guidance. Since 2012, a number of Ursuline Sisters have been working at Nyumbani in a collaborative arrangement between the Loreto and Ursuline congregations.

The only one of its kind when it was established in 1992, Nyumbani Children's Home offers life-changing comprehensive medical, nutritional, dental, life-skills, psychological, academic and spiritual care. Typical of missionary development projects, it takes a holistic or whole-child approach to care, rehabilitation, and accompaniment. It goes beyond simply providing essential health services for a child. In

each of the cottages there is a surrogate family with 14 children and a house parent, usually a grandparent. Inter-generational companionship, a quality education, and post-graduation career counselling help ensure successful reintegration into their own families, tribal communities, or independent living.

The growth and success of Nyumbani programmes – Children’s Home, Leo Toto Community Outreach Programme, and the Village with a primary, secondary and polytechnic schools with around 1,000 students – reflect Sr. Mary’s tremendous dedication to the health and care of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Kenya who can grow into confident and happy children within native cultural traditions.

In 2010, Sr. Mary was nominated for the *Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health & Human Rights*. Sponsored by John Snow Inc, the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care, and the Global Health Council, the award is bestowed annually on a leading practitioner in health and human rights.

Sr. Mary’s attitude to international development was highlighted in her submission to an Irish Aid public consultation on Ireland’s overseas aid

programme. She stated: "First and foremost, we give aid because it is right that we help those in greatest need. We are bound together by more than globalisation. We are bound together by a shared humanity. The fate of others is a matter of concern to us. From this shared humanity comes a responsibility to those in great need beyond the borders of our own state."

She emphasised the role of missionary and faith-based organisations saying: "My experience over 43 years in Kenya is that support to faith-based organisations has been more effective in reaching the poor. Faith-based organisations are characterised by great commitment among the members and their non-profit ethos ensures that economic support is utilized in the best way possible. They are also the groups that reach out into the inaccessible areas of any country."

Secretary General of the Anglican Communion rebukes Nigerian primate for boycotting meeting

Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion has told Premier it is "sad" that the leader of Anglicans in Nigeria has decided to not attend a meeting



called by The Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev Justin Welby.

The meeting scheduled for next month in Canterbury is for the Primates from the 39 provinces.

But Most Rev Nicholas Okoh Primate of All Nigeria has refused to attend because of what he deems as a lack of progress on the issue of sexuality.

The last meeting of its kind was in January 2016 where there was much disagreement about the Church's view on sexuality.

Archbishop Josiah disagrees with the primate's stance.

He told Premier News: "At their meeting in January 2016 the Primates agreed to walk together.

"The primate of Nigeria was present at that meeting. In effect, he is now reneging on this decision which is very sad.

"However the door remains open and he would be very welcome to attend next month's Primates' meeting."

In that meeting the US Episcopal Church was suspended from full membership in the Anglican Communion because of its decision to allow clergy to conduct gay marriages.

Critics claim that the punishment hasn't changed anything.

In a letter to members of the conservative Anglican group, GAFCON, Archbishop Nicholas claimed that the meeting didn't respect or "preserve the integrity of the Anglican faith".

He added that nothing has changed since the Church's sexuality discussions started in 2008 and that attending next month's primate meeting would encourage "a pattern of behaviour which

is allowing great damage to be done to global Anglican witness and unity”.

Introduction of Minister-in-Charge of Drumbo Parish

Bishop Harold Miller of Down & Dromore has introduced Revd Mervyn Jamison as Minister-in-Charge in Drumbo Parish.

Parishioners, family and supporters came along to the service on Tuesday 5 September which was led by the Area Dean, the Revd Willie Nixon. The Revd Carlton Baxter, curate in Magheralin and Dollingstown, gave the address and the rector of Comber, Canon Jonathan Barry, led the prayers.

In 2007, Mervyn was ordained as a Non-Stipendary Minister whilst still working full-time. His first curacy was in St Mary's, Ballybeen, followed by St Mary's, Comber.

In October 2013 he was appointed as Minister-in-Charge of a new church plant in Moneyreagh, now known as Moneyreagh Community Church (MCC).

In January 2015 having completed just over 30 years service with his previous employer, he became a stipendiary minister, still at MCC as it had grown from 12 people to around 70 and continues to grow.

He says: “We had never classed ourselves as church planters. However, God has pushed us to what we thought were our limits and beyond!

“We have been truly blessed and humbled in our just under four years in MCC. We have met some amazing people, hungry for God and willing to do ‘whatever it takes’ to extend Christ’s kingdom on earth.

“We leave MCC saddened but with expectant hearts! There is now an established ‘Fellowship of Believers’ thriving in the community of Moneyreagh.”

Speaking of his new appointment to Drumbo, Mervyn said: “We are excited about our move to ‘Holy Trinity Ballylesson in the Parish of Drumbo’ (HTB Drumbo, I do like abbreviations’!), and we ask for your prayers as we begin this new chapter in our ministry.”

Mervyn, a young 50, lives in Comber with his wife, Rosemary and they have three children,

David (20), Rory (18) and Rosalind (13).
Rosemary and his family are an integral part of
his ministry.

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