



## **Drone tour of Killyleagh church online**

Killyleagh Parish has decided to share its lovely building and location by commissioning a drone tour of the church and making it available online. Shot by attaching a camera to a radio-controlled drone, the tour gives a bird's eye view of the church's roof, spire, bells and beautiful

surroundings and a unique perspective on the many interesting features of the interior.

The Church of St John the Evangelist sits on the shores of Strangford Lough, an area of outstanding natural beauty and must have one of the most enviable locations in the Church of Ireland.

The building is situated on top of the hill opposite the fairy-tale Killyleagh Castle and reached its 375th birthday in 2015. It is one of the oldest churches still in use in the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

The film was made by a parishioner, Darren Brown, and is posted on the parish's new website. The site came from a collaboration with a number of further education students at South East Regional College in Downpatrick and complements the parish Facebook page.

Killyleagh's rector, Revd Colin Darling, has already welcomed visitors to the church as a result of their visiting the website.

Visit [killyleaghparish.com](http://killyleaghparish.com) where you will also find the history of the church and plans for the new hall, the foundations for which were laid this year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEFDKYbBhuA&feature=youtu.be>

## **Bishops' plaudits for popular Donegal broadcaster**

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, was among church leaders and other well-known community figures who joined Donegal's favourite broadcaster on Friday for the final instalment of Highland Radio's eponymous Shaun Doherty Show.

The presenter is stepping down after 27 years at the station – mostly spent presenting his popular morning show.

Appearing alongside the Bishop of Raphoe, Dr Philip Boyce, Bishop Good complimented the radio personality on his years of success behind the microphone, during which time Highland has become the most popular radio station in the Republic of Ireland. "Highland Radio is a station perfectly in touch with its community," Bishop Good said, "and Shaun is a presenter perfectly in tune with his audience."

Other contributors to Mr Doherty's last programme included the husband and wife singers Daniel and Majella O'Donnell,



broadcasters Gay Byrne and Ryan Tubridy, the composer Phil Coulter, and the former international footballer Packie Bonner. Bishop Good offered Shaun Doherty his best wishes for the future – whatever role Mr Doherty chooses to pursue. Bishop Good also extended his best wishes to Dr Boyce who retires next month after more than 20 years service as Bishop of Raphoe.

## **God's Big Picture theme of annual preaching conference**

The annual conference of the Irish College of Preachers is a great opportunity to receive equipping and encouragement.



### **The guest speaker Mark Smith**

This year, the theme is God’s Big Picture, and will help preachers trace the story–line of the Bible. The guest speaker is Mark Smith, who pastors an Anglican church plant, City Church, in Dublin. Mark is a capable preacher and practitioner.

The residential conference, which will take place in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin on 13–15 September, is open to all who serve the church by preaching. Further details of the event can be obtained from Bishop Ferran Glenfield at [bishop@kilmore.anglican.org](mailto:bishop@kilmore.anglican.org)

## Bishop of Liverpool backs gay Pride festival



The Bishop of Liverpool has become the newest patron of an annual lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender event in Liverpool.

The Rt Rev Paul Bayes has become a patron of Liverpool Pride and will address crowds outside St George's Hall when the festival returns to the city, on 29th July.

Bishop Paul said, "If someone said to me, 'why are you supporting Pride?', I'd say it's because LGBT people were made by God and are loved by God. Homophobia



and hate crime are things that we should all be opposing."

Liverpool Pride was inspired by the tragic death of Michael Causer, a teenager from the Whiston area of Merseyside who was murdered because of his sexual orientation in 2008.

Bishop Paul continued: "It's my privilege to get alongside people where they are. It seems to me that's what our Lord Jesus

did when he was accused of being a glutton and a drunk.

"He was accused of hanging out with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus was seeking, I think, to bring the Gospel to all people as they are and that's what I'm intending and hope to do, here."

Lucy Day from Liverpool Pride was quoted by the Liverpool Echo as saying: "We are delighted that the Bishop is to be a patron of Liverpool Pride and we welcome him to the family. Pride respects people of all religious beliefs."

## **New bishop urges Welsh diocese to move on after sexuality row**

The new Bishop of Llandaff has urged her diocese to move on after a selection process which led to the Church of Wales being accused of homophobia.

The Rt Rev June Osborne (pictured above, right) was appointed for the role in south Wales in April





2017, instead of another candidate, Dr Jeffrey John who is openly gay.

Dr John claimed he was ruled out of succeeding Dr Barry Morgan because of his sexuality, a claim the Church of Wales denied.

Speaking at her consecration service at Brecon Cathedral on Saturday, Bishop June told BBC Radio Wales: "I'm sure we will go forward really confidently under my leadership."

"The process is very clear and was followed meticulously. I'm confident - and it has been scrutinised - that the process was followed carefully and constitutionally.

It is believed Dr John was the most popular candidate in an electoral college ballot, however he failed to secure a required two-thirds majority.



After the initial process failed to select a candidate, the Bench of Bishops appointed June Osborne - a friend of Dr Jeffrey John - to become the 72nd Bishop of Llandaff.

The consecration service came days after Dr John claimed the contents of emails sent between two bishops proved they opposed his selection because he is gay.

A spokesman for the Church in Wales responded, telling the BBC: "We understand that the private correspondence of the Church in Wales' bishops concerning the process to elect a Bishop of Llandaff has again been put into the public domain by others.

"We are satisfied that the entire process of electing and then appointing the Bishop of Llandaff was carried out properly and fairly and will not be commenting further."

## **Celebration of achievements of Hong Kong at St John's Cathedral**

St John's Cathedral, the mother church of the Anglican Diocese of Hong Kong Island, held a special service 'Celebrating Hong Kong' this week to celebrate the 'vibrancy, diversity and achievements of Hong Kong.' During the service, faith leaders and the Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR took part in candle lighting and prayed that the city would be blessed with peace and love.

The 'Celebrating Hong Kong' service was led by the Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong, Archbishop and Primate of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui. Amongst the congregation were the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR Mrs Carrie Lam, representatives of consulates-general, and representatives of many Christian denominations and also of the Muslim, Confucian, Taoist and Buddhist faiths. Over 400 people attended the service.



In the opening prayer, Archbishop Paul Kwong thanked God for the many blessings upon the life of Hong Kong and for those who offered themselves for public service. “We join together to offer our hopes and dreams for this place, and ask for the strength to strive for the greater good. We come to pray for all the people of Hong Kong, our nation and our world,” he said.

The prayer was followed by reflections upon the topic ‘What’s Good about Hong Kong’, contributed by a teenager, an adult and a senior citizen. After a litany of thanksgiving led by the Christian leaders, The Very Reverend Matthias C. Der, Dean of St John’s Cathedral, invited

members of the local community to light three candles, which represented faith, hope and love.

The first candle, 'the Candle of Faith', was lit by representatives of the local faith communities, praying that Hong Kong citizens may proceed on life's journey in harmony and happiness with a peaceful heart. The second candle, 'the Candle of Hope', was lit by a group of young people. They prayed that, through this gift of illumination, people would find the way through the darkness of this world and be a light for others in need. Three couples lit the third candle, 'the Candle of Love', and gave thanks for the gift of understanding and compassion for all of humankind. Mrs Carrie Lam then lit the fourth candle, 'The Bauhinia Candle', a symbol for Hong Kong. The congregation prayed that the city would continue to be blessed with peace, justice and prosperity. Archbishop Paul Kwong ended the service with the Prayer of St Francis and a blessing of the congregation and the city.

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