

C of I bishop guest at All Ireland hurling match



Frank Murphy (Secretary, Cork County Board, GAA) welcoming the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton and Mrs Susan Colton to the new Páirc Uí Chaoimh. (Photo: George Hatchell)

On Saturday, 22nd July, an auspicious and historic day for *Cumann Lúthchleas Gael* (the Gaelic Athletic Association), Bishop Paul and



At lunch prior to the first Quarter Final of the All-Ireland Hurling Championship 2017 were (l-r seated) Mrs Susan Colton, Mr Páraic Duffy (Director General of the GAA), and Mr Christy Cooney (President, GAA, 2009-2012), and (l-r standing) Father Seamus Gardiner (GAA), Mr Frank Murphy (Secretary, Cork County Board, GAA), and Bishop Paul Colton.

Mrs Susan Colton were the guests of the Cork County Board at the Quarter-Final of the All-Ireland Hurling qualifier between Clare and Tipperary in the new *Páirc Uí Chaoimh* in Cork.

They were also invited to be present again on Sunday 23rd July for the second qualifier

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between Waterford and Wexford but were unable to attend. *Páirc Uí Chaoimh* has been developed at a cost of €80,000,000 and replaces the previous stadium which was opened in 1976.

'I remember when the previous stadium was opened,' said Bishop Colton, 'I was a teenager in Cork in those days. The excitement was great then and there is the same excitement this week in Cork, as well as throughout the sporting community in general about the new stadium.'

Before the matches of the day, the Bishop and Mrs Colton were also guests at a lunch in the new stadium.

Bishop Colton said:
Susan and I are thrilled to be guests of the GAA today and to be back at a match in Páirc Uí Chaoimh which we know well from attending matches each year. The new stadium is simply magnificent and huge congratulations are due to everyone associated with the project. I sat on the fence for today's match between Clare and Tipperary. Susan was less neutral as she has many cousins in Tipperary!

As reported by journalist [Eoin English in the Irish Examiner](#),

It's taken over €80m, 33,000 tonnes of concrete, 1,500 tonnes of steelwork, some 500 construction workers and about two years — but Ireland's newest sports stadium has finally been unveiled. And the regenerated 45,000-capacity Páirc Uí Chaoimh GAA stadium in Cork is set to deliver an immediate €25m boost to the local economy this weekend.

Concern at dates of C of I ordinations

The C of I correspondent to the Irish Times commented on Saturday:

“One of the pleasures of July is to read in the *Church Times* about the Petertide ordinations. A substantial insert carries accounts of the ordinations in each of the dioceses of the Church of England. The newly ordained are listed and photographed with their bishops and a number of short features discuss some individuals, highlighting the considerable diversity in background, training and outlook which is such a feature of the ordained ministry today. Not only is this a wonderful shop window for the Church of England and its theological colleges but it is also a powerful evocation of the

continuing presence of the Church in the modern world.

“Although it was customary to ordain priests and deacons at the Ember seasons, and especially in December, it is now more usual for Anglican ordinations to take place on the Feast of St Peter (29 June) rather than on Trinity Sunday. Until recently that too was the practice of the Church of Ireland with Peteride ordinations, being, in many ways, the highlight of the year but this is no longer the case.

“The introduction of a new training schedule in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute now sees ordinands ordained as ‘deacons intern’ in their third year of training, usually in the autumn, and then priested in the following autumn.

“The jury remains out on the effectiveness of this new model of training but many regret the loss of the Peteride ordinations and the sense of solidarity with the wider Anglican Communion that it offered. Ten ordinands will be made deacons in August and September. There are eighteen deacons serving as interns but when they will be raised to the priesthood remains unclear.”

Matters musical



On August 4 Essential Records will be releasing the album 'No Need To Fear' by Sylvia Burnside & The New Irish Choir & Orchestra. Sylvia has a growing reputation as a performer and one of Ireland's leading singing teachers under the tutelage of the Royal School Of Music. The choir and orchestra started in 1994 by Irish hymn

writer Keith Getty. Here is a clip of their recent concert in Belfast Cathedral.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=KkabiFolhDg>

In Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, the services yesterday were sung by the Chapel Choir of St Paul's College, Hong Kong, and in St Patrick's cathedral, the choir of St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, sang the services under the direction of Peter Barley, formerly of St Patrick's.

On Wednesday the lunchtime concert in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, will be given by soprani, Ellen Collins and Eve Stafford, accompanied by Peter Barley.

The 37th St Barrahane's Church Festival of Music began last week in Castletownshend. Next Thursday evening at 8pm there will be a Music Ireland recital with Riona O'Duinnin (flute), Duanne Marshall (harp) and Beth McNinch (viola).

In Dublin, 'Summer Music at Sandford 2017' continues at lunchtime on Friday in Sandford parish church, Ranelagh, where pianist, Adam McDonagh, will play works by Mozart, Brahms and Ravel. In Skibbereen, the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne & Ross, Dr Paul Colton, will attend the first West Cork History Festival where the

keynote address will be given by Professor Roy Foster. Dr Colton is one of the patrons of the festival.

At a recent meeting of the choir members of St. Brigid's cathedral, Kildare, the former Dean of Cashel, Dr. Philip Knowles, was elected as public relations officer for the choir and Sandra Brennan, a cathedral parishioner as secretary. The choir, drawn from many districts, sing at a number of cathedral services including the St. Brigid's Festival service, the Diocesan Harvest Thanksgiving service, the Christmas Carol service. and on other special occasions.

Fátima Conference for Derry

The Drummond Hotel in Ballykelly will be the venue for the forthcoming Fatima Conference for Northern Ireland on September 8th and 9th-in conjunction with WAF-I, the Pontifical Marian Academy, the Marian Institute, and the Mariological Society of Ireland.

This two day event will explore in detail the events of Fatima, its message to today's world and its call.

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"For the many of whom will not be able to go to Fatima for the Jubilee- in this unique occasion Fatima will come to them." Says organiser William A. Thomas.

Christian prayers start most Welsh council meetings

In spite of efforts to scrap them, Christian prayers are still held before most Welsh council meetings.

The BBC reports that 13 councils have a time of prayer before the formal start which means it is not formally classed as an agenda item. It also means that people of other faiths are not required to participate. Only 5 Welsh councils do not hold any prayers.

Campaigners have already called for the practice to be ended.

The National Secular Society (NSS) said councils "shouldn't be clubs for Christians."

Nevertheless, none of the councils have changed their position in over a year.

The Church in Wales said prayer or reflection "could be hugely beneficial".

They also said councillors could benefit from prayer or reflection before making "decisions which will affect many people".

Denbighshire is the only council that holds a formal prayer at the beginning of full council meetings.

A spokeswoman said: "Those of us with a faith may give thanks for the opportunity to make a difference and ask for God's guidance on our decisions. Those without a faith may appreciate a moment of quiet to reflect on the task ahead and remind us of our common purpose."

An act covering England says council meetings "may include time for prayers or other religious

observance, or observance connected with a religious or philosophical belief".

There is no equivalent act in Wales and the Welsh Local Government Association said individual councils were not issued guidance on the matter and could use their own discretion.

Cambridge Dean to lead Anglican missionary partnership

The Revd Duncan Dormor, Dean of St John's College, Cambridge, has been appointed as the next CEO (General Secretary) of USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel). He succeeds Janette O'Neill, who retires after six years in post, taking the helm of a mission agency that has played a transforming role in global Anglicanism for well over 300 years.

Commenting on his appointment, Revd Duncan said: "I am absolutely delighted to be offered this opportunity to lead USPG as it works with partner churches across the Anglican Communion in seeking to transform the lives of individuals and communities through the power of the gospel."



He added: “Faithful to its history, radical in its proclamation, I have long admired the way in which USPG acts in solidarity to empower local churches across the globe in ways that respect their autonomy and culture. Having spent many years in ministry with young people I know first-hand of USPG’s thirst to engage with the pressing global challenges of injustice and poverty that scar our world and I would seek to harness such vision to deepen and renew the life of the church across the world through USPG.”

Canon Chris Chivers, Chair of Trustees, added: “I am thrilled with this appointment. Duncan Dormor brings energy and passion, dynamic communication skills and a proven track-record

in enabling organisational change to this important post. His deep faith in Jesus Christ, his significant international experience in relation to St John's College and Cambridge University, his global vision, alertness to the perspective of younger generations, concern for justice and reconciliation, and inspiring work as a writer and speaker, make him well-placed to lead the team which will shape the next phase for USPG in new and exciting ways."

Catholic group sends 15 Virgin Mary statues to Iraq to replace ones destroyed by ISIS

A Catholic charity has sent 15 statues of the Virgin Mary to the Middle East to replace ones destroyed by ISIS.

The group Œuvre d'Orient, a French association dedicated to helping persecuted Christians, has sent the statues from Lourdes to Ankawa, a suburb of the city of Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan, which has a majority Catholic population.



The moon lights up a statue of Virgin Mary in Erbil, Iraq. A Catholic group has sent 15 statues to replace those destroyed by ISIS

Aleteia reports that once they arrive, they will be carried in procession through the town by Chaldean and Syriac Catholics, before being blessed and sent to their parishes.

Œuvre d'Orient say the processions will be a testament to Jeremiah 31:17: "And here is hope for thy last end, saith the Lord: and the children shall return to their own borders."

In March, a senior aid worker described the Chaldean Catholic population in northern Iraq as “on the verge of extinction”, warning that the West must help.

Stephen Rasche, legal counsel and head of resettlement programmes for the Chaldean Archdiocese of Erbil, said: “The future really does hang in the balance,” adding: “History could look back on this and say ‘in their time of greatest need, they didn’t get the support and the community disappeared’. That could happen. We need to be honest about that.”

Christian families were forced to flee the Nineveh Plains when ISIS took control of the region in 2014, mainly finding refuge in Erbil. Although the terror group is slowly losing territory, many thousands of Christians remain in the city as IDPs (internally displaced persons).

Since 2003, Iraq's Christian population has collapsed from 1.4 million to 275,000.

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