

Nurse from Annalong to spend another year on Mercy ship



Jane White from Annalong Parish was due to finish her stint with Mercy Ships this month but she has signed up for another year. Jane had just spent 10 months nursing aboard the hospital ship *Africa Mercy*, moored in Madagascar. When she goes back on duty at the end of July the ship will move on to Cameroon, where it will

once again provide care for the poorest in West Africa.

Africa Mercy provides life-changing medical care to the poorest people in the country where it's moored. Last summer the ship sailed for Benin, West Africa, where Jane reprised her role as team leader on the general surgical ward nursing patients with serious 'hernias, lumps and bumps' as she puts it.

Her joy in the work and sense of call are obvious but it was a tough year on the busy ward with a lot of emergencies. "I only got through it with God's help and the prayers from home," says Jane.

The ship has an Intensive Care Unit, pharmacy, X-Ray machine and CT scanner, which is sometimes the only one in the country. The hospital is staffed entirely by self-funded volunteers from all over the world with an ever changing team of surgeons and anaesthetists. They perform orthopaedic They perform orthopaedic, plastic, maxillofacial and general surgery in carefully selected cases.

Jane enjoys leading the ward team of around 15 nurses and 12 translators. "Mothering is my

leadership style, she laughs, “and I do look out for my staff’s mental, physical and spiritual health. I always lead a short devotion at the handover and I’m amazed at how God can speak during those times.”

As *Africa Mercy* sails on to another port, Jane too, will be moving roles and location. At her own request, she will be based dockside in the Outpatients tent. “It will be a smaller team, but I feel ready for a new challenge,” she says.

To make a donation to Mercy Ships or to Jane as an individual crew member please visit www.mercyships.org.uk

Series of major peace events in Clontarf

Because of the importance of peace and the continual challenge to it around the world from conflict, war and terrorism the Church of Ireland and Catholic St John the Baptist churches in Clontarf, Dublin are organising a number of major Peace Events over the next few years. These will be built around music and poetry and anchored in scripture readings on peace and reconciliation.



The first of these is at 8.00pm on Friday 29 September in St John the Baptist church, Clontarf Rd followed by Saturday 30 September at 8.00pm in St John the Baptist church, Seafield Rd.

To mark these events and the importance of peace a Peace Tree is being planted near the Red Stables, in St Anne's Park, Clontarf at 11.00am on Friday 29 September 2017.

The Norwegian Armed Forces are being represented by the Brass Quintet of the Royal Norwegian Navy Band along with their Director

Commander Terje Gravningsmyhr. The Norwegian Embassy in Ireland supports the project. A representative of the Irish Defence Forces will read poetry, in solidarity with those who died in battle.

The internationally renowned classical guitarist, John Feeley, will play a number of pieces including one of his famous Bach arrangements. Aimee Farrell Courtney, the most important Bodhrán player of her generation, will also play at the event.

Observing the UN International Day of Peace

Church members are being invited to join with people around the world by observing the International Day of Peace! People in cities, communities and villages worldwide have engaged in the International Day of Peace in diverse and meaningful ways. Here are just some of the many Peace Day activities that have taken place across the globe:

*Minute of silence at 12 noon (all timezones) *Peace education events



*Intercultural and interfaith dialogues *Workshops on the UN Peace Day theme *Meditation and prayer *Planting peace poles *Community gatherings *Vigils *Concerts and festivals *Soccer/football matches in the spirit of peace *Service to others *Feasts for Peace *Writing peace poetry *Yoga *Marches, parades and flag ceremonies *Public programs with government officials *Engaging youth in peace-building activities.

Engaging in Peace Day can take place privately, as part of a group and/or as a participant in an event or program. The pages in this section –



Children & Youth, the Arts, Nonviolence, Environment, Health, Social Justice, etc. offer diverse ideas for observing this global day shared with all humanity.

Global Peace Day initiatives

– “May Peace Prevail On Earth!” – Include this universal statement – perhaps around a local

Peace Pole – to begin and/or end a program or gathering.

– Global Feast For Peace -Gather people together with food in the spirit of peace – include interfaith or intercultural dialogue if you wish (Global Feast [PDF](#).)

– Roots and Shoots – Each September, Roots & Shoots groups from around the world celebrate Roots & Shoots and honor the International Day of Peace. Dr. Jane has been a UN Messenger of Peace since 2002 and she inspires us all to live in harmony with nature and each other.

– 11 Days of Global Unity – The 11 Days of Global Unity aims at strengthening the ideals of unity and equality, diversity and oneness, harmony and compassion and, above all, at advancing the culture of peace.

– Compassion Games International – offers fun and creative ways to ignite and catalyze compassionate action in communities around the world.

– Be the Peace – From Sept. 19 – 21, join the synchronized meditation on-line.

– Peace Crane Project – Create and share peace cranes with people in different parts of the world.

– One Day One Goal – Peace One Day’s campaign using the power of sport to bring people together.

Whatever you choose to do, please pause at 12 Noon local time and join people all across the globe in a Minute of Silence/Moment of Peace.

<http://internationaldayofpeace.org/get-involved/>

New Chaplain at Bandon Grammar School

The United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, together with Bandon Grammar School, jointly announced the appointment of the Reverend Anne Skuse as Chaplain to Bandon Grammar School, a new full-time post established by the Diocese in partnership with the School.

The Reverend Anne Skuse is currently Bishop’s Curate in Moviddy Union of Parishes, and is also part-time hospital chaplain at Cork University Hospital. Anne served previously in the auxiliary ministry within the Diocese. She was employed on a part-time basis directly by Bandon Grammar School, before deciding to transfer to full-time stipendiary ministry. Clergy who transfer from auxiliary to full-time stipendiary ministry are



required to undergo additional training, as well as a curacy, all of which Anne has been completing.

The Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork expressed his delight at Anne's appointment as Chaplain of Bandon Grammar School and said: 'This is an exciting new post that the Diocese has established in partnership with Bandon Grammar School. It is a sign of the Church thinking beyond traditional parochial models of ministry and bringing ministry to where people are. Bandon Grammar School is a substantial and multifaceted community within the Diocese, with about 670 students (from

approximately 400 families), 56 teachers and another 40 employees (non-teaching and coaching). The Reverend Anne Skuse is an excellent priest who brings many gifts to whatever sphere of ministry she enters into; she has a proven and remarkable ability to work with young people and to serve in the second level school situation.'

Mr Ian Coombes, Principal of Bandon Grammar School, said: 'The whole community at Bandon Grammar School are delighted to welcome the Rev. Anne Skuse back as School Chaplain. The pastoral and liturgical experience she has built up in her ministry in Moviddy Union and hospital chaplaincy will bring a new dimension to her witness here. Building a closer connection with Bandon Union in a shared ministry will be an exciting development. The pupils, staff, board and I wish Anne every happiness and fulfillment in her ministry with us. We look forward to her arrival with joy and anticipation.

Bandon Grammar School is a co-educational, boarding and day school founded in 1641. It is one of three second level schools in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the others being Ashton School (Cork) and Midleton College.'

Irish Rugby International appointed to Cistercian College Roscrea



A Cistercian-run post-primary school which almost closed last February is to appoint a former Irish Rugby International as its new Head of Boarding.

Cistercian College Roscrea (CCR) has appointed former Irish rugby international prop and hammer throwing champion Gary Halpin (51) as the new Head of Boarding at the college.

Mr Halpin is a highly experienced educator, having spent 16 years in management positions in top schools in the UK. He has been appointed to this key role to be part of the Cistercian College Roscrea Leadership Team and he will

lead the Pastoral Care Management strategy at the College.

Mr Halpin is better known for his role as an Irish rugby and athletics international in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Educated at the Holy Ghost-run Rockwell College near Cahir, where he won four Irish schools rugby caps, he travelled to the US on an athletics scholarship, where he won the American Indoor Collegiate Championship in the hammer before going on to represent Ireland in the 1987 World Athletics Championships.

Upon returning to Ireland in 1989 he played rugby with Wanderers FC, making his full international debut twelve months later when lining out as tight head prop against England at Twickenham. He played for Ireland from 1990 to 1995, winning eleven caps and scoring one try, after making his debut in January 1990 against England in a 23–0 defeat.

He was part of the Ireland squad at the 1991 Rugby World Cup and the 1995 Rugby World Cup. He has taught for a number of years and has been Head of House at St David's House in Christ College Brecon, a boarding school with 400 pupils in Wales.

Commenting on the appointment, the chairman of the Board of Management at CCR Ronnie Culliton said “I am delighted to welcome Gary as our new Head of boarding. In Gary we believe we have appointed someone with exemplary educational and sports experience, as well as a leader and person of the highest calibre. We look forward to having him and his family join us later this year to build on our work to further develop CCR as an outstanding option for parents and pupils looking for a high quality education across seven day, five day and day boarding options.” Referring to his new position, Mr Halpin said he looks forward to joining the school. “I’d like to thank Ronnie and the Board of Management in Cistercian College Roscrea for appointing me to the Head of Boarding role. As a former Rockwell College student, my association with CCR dates back to the mid-80s. In particular, the annual Rugby games and the Triangular Sports Athletics fixture evokes a cascade of fond memories. Not surprisingly, I look forward to getting involved in Sport at CCR.”

Ambitious plans for former church building in Macroom



When the Church of Ireland building in Castle Street in Macroom ceased to be a place of worship, the church authorities handed over the deconsecrated building for the use of the local community, The Southern Star reports.

Over the years the building fell into disrepair and periodic emergency works were undertaken to keep the church in some reasonable state as plans were discussed to make a proper use of the fine historic building.

Cork County Council are now the owners of the building and the Lee Valley Enterprise Board have procured from them of a long-term lease on the building. The LVEB has ambitious plans for

the building, which include creating a Visual Arts Centre there, hosting a tourist information office, a Gearagh Interpretative Centre and creating a space for intimate musical recitals.

The building could also be used for civic and awards ceremonies in the town. The plans are exciting and ambitious but will require major financing, the figure being quoted is €480000.

The LVEB has begun the process of raising monies, and the proceeds of some recent productions in the Riverside Park Hotel have been placed in the fund for the restoration of the old church.

In the late autumn, the LVEB will put on a production of 'Grease' with the dual aim of promoting young talent in the area and of raising money of the restoration fund.

Pope pleads for end to Temple Mount violence in Jerusalem

As violence continues in Jerusalem and elsewhere in Israel/Palestine as a result of a dispute over access to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif (also known as Haram esh-Sharif), the Pope has appealed for moderation and dialogue

over the future of the site that is sacred to both Muslims and Jews.

Speaking to those gathered in St Peter's Square on Sunday for the Angelus prayer, the Pope said he was following the events in Jerusalem "with trepidation".

Last week two Israeli policemen were killed by Arab gunmen firing from the Haram esh-Sharif complex, and in response the Israeli government erected walk-through metal detectors at all entrances to the site. Arabs have viewed this as an attempt by the Israeli state to further exercise control over this part of East Jerusalem, which before 1967 was predominantly Muslim but which now has an almost entirely Jewish population.

In response to the security initiative, Muslims have refused to pass through the metal detectors and have been holding their prayers in the streets surrounding the sacred site. This has led to increased tensions between Arabs and Israelis and violence that has seen six people killed.

Calling on all the faithful to join him in prayer so that the Lord may inspire all sides to come together with proposals for reconciliation and

peace, Pope Francis said in Rome: “I feel the need to express a heartfelt appeal for moderation and dialogue.”

The Temple Mount is sacred to Jews because it is here that Solomon, son of King David, built the First Temple in 957 BC. It was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC, but a second temple was built here in 516 BC. However, this was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70. According to Jewish tradition, it is here that the third and final Temple will be built – it is the holiest site in Judaism and all Jews face towards the Temple Mount when they pray, no matter where they are in the world.

Among Sunni Muslims, the location is known as ‘the noble sanctuary’, Haram esh-Sharif, and it is their third holiest site after Mecca and Medina – it is believed that it was from here that the Prophet Mohammed ascended into heaven in AD 621. The Dome of the Rock, which was built in AD 692 over the spot where the prophet last stood on earth, is one of the oldest Islamic structures in the world.

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