CNI

# C of E General Synod approves clergy well-being report

Clergy need more help to build "resilience" to better deal with their congregations, according to a new report approved by the Church of England's General Synod.

Canon Rev Dr Jonathan Alderton-Ford, member of the General Synod, told Premier Radio about some of the pressures of the job.

During News Hour he said: "You're working in an environment of often decline, often

marginalisation and also in terms of limited resources so you're trying to turn round a local organisation with all these other problems going on so it's an incredibly demanding and stressful job."

During the General Synod debate the Archbishop of Canterbury said his own wellbeing had been affected during his time as a parish priest.

Justin Welby revealed the job had been the "hardest" he had ever done and explained: "Mainly because it was isolated, insatiably demanding, and I was on the whole working without close colleagues, particularly in the first few years.

"And that wears people down."

Canon Alderton-Ford said church members can help their clergy as they deal with the pressures of the job in a number of ways: "One is be an encourager.

"Wherever possible try and tell your clergy person something good that they have done because that really helps - I mean that's one of the things we don't get enough of.

"Secondly I would say be a keen volunteer.

"And number three - don't be a gossip…it's also a very good idea if you give generously so the Church has got enough money and just generally be a positive person - both in the Church and outside the Church."

The report also says children of clergy need more support because they face "stresses and strains in a post-Christian culture".

## Faith leaders at National Day of Commemoration

Faith leaders officiated at the National Day of Commemoration in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham on Sunday July 9.

Imam Sheikh Hussein Halawa (Islamic Cultural Centre), Archbishop Michael Jackson (Church of Ireland), the Revd Laurence Graham (Methodist Church in Ireland), Fr Rouies (Coptic Orthodox Church), the Rt Revd Dr Nobel McNeely (Presbyterian Church in Ireland), Bishop Raymond Field (Roman Catholic) and Rabbi Zalman Lent (Jewish Community in Ireland) led prayers and readings during the ceremony.

## President Michael D Higgins laying a wreath on behalf of the people of Ireland

The commemoration was led by President Michael D Higgins and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and attended by representatives of the Council of State and the Government as well as members of the judiciary, members of the diplomatic corps, TDs and Senators, representatives of ex–servicemen's organisations and relatives of leaders of the 1916 Rising.

President Higgins laid a laurel wreath on behalf of the people of Ireland and a minute's silence was broken by a gun salute and the sounding of the Last Post. The commemoration concluded with a fly–past by three Pilatus PC–9 aircraft.

**Archbishop Michael Jackson leading the Christian prayer at the National Day of Commemoration ceremony.**

The Army band of the 1st Brigade and pipers provided the music and accompanied soloist Sharon Lyons.

The event is held annually to remember all Irish men and women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations.

## Fijians from NI join Fijian choir's premiere at GB Methodist Conference

Tears flowed as 50 United Kingdom Fijian Methodist Fellowship mass choir members from Northern Ireland, Scotland and England sang at the Methodist Church of Great Britain Conference in Birmingham last Sunday.

It was the first time for a Fijian choir to sing Fijian hymns and anthems at the conference of more than 500 ministers, deacons, families and friends to witness the solemn occasion.

Methodist Church of Great Britain newly-elected president Reverend Loraine Mellor introduced the choir before they sang hymns during the offering.

"The Fijian Methodist Fellowship has a very special place in my heart and I am so happy seeing and listening to them sing today. I have been working with them for the past few years. They had invited me to their conference in Plymouth earlier this year and it was such a great honour. I had invited them to sing at the conference," she said.

Speaking to the choir members before they went into the auditorium to perform, Unconfirmed Reverend Nimilote Rokotoro thanked the Lord for this important day.

He thanked the members who had flown from Northern Ireland and driven hours from around the UK and Scotland to attend.

Chaplain Reverend Jimione Kaci said this was a milestone for the Fijian fellowship's walk of faith in the UK.

"There have been a lot of things we have faced along the way for the past few years but we have been steadfast in our faith and we thank the Lord for the plans that He has for the Fijian fellowship," he said.

Fijian Methodist United Kingdom Divisional choirmaster Tomasi Kanailagi said the two circuits from the south and north of England conducted their combined choir practice for the past two months - Report courtesy The Fiji Times

## Five peaks and 2,000 miles for Christian Aid Ireland

On Sunday 25th June Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork welcomed Nick Simon (59) to the 11.15 am Choral Eucharist. Nick is undertaking a 10,000 mile cycle in aid of Christian Aid projects in Africa. Having already completed a staggering 8,000 miles which took

him from Cairo to Cape Town in 2016, Nick is completing the last leg of his cycle from Cork to Camden Town this summer.

At the end of the Service the Dean of Cork, the Very Revd Nigel Dunne offered a special blessing for Nick for his journey which began the next morning. His daughter, Emma, also joined him for the first leg of his journey to Dublin. Nick hopes to reach his target of £80k before reaching the well-known London borough of Camden Town in October 2017.

Not only is Nick cycling the 2,000 miles that will take him across Ireland and Britain he will also climb the five highest peaks along his travels – Carrantuohill Mountain 3,406 feet, Slieve Donard Mountain 2,790 feet, Ben Nevis 4,413 feet, Scafell Pike 3,209 feet, and Snowdon 3,560 feet.

Speaking about his journey so far Nick said:
It was a big challenge but a privilege to cycle 8,000 miles independently through Africa for Christian Aid in 2016. The CTCT Challenge took me through 11 countries from Cairo in Egypt to Cape Town in South Africa: Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The aim was to raise funds to reduce extreme poverty.

All funds generated directly by Nick through donations to the  link here will be used to support the range of programmes provided by Christian Aid's African programmes.  Readers can also donate directly to Christian Aid here.

## Catholic Church to hold All-Ireland collection for East Africa

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference has announced today that special collections at all

Masses will take place across Ireland on the weekend of 22 and 23 July to fund life-saving aid for people currently affected by the devastating hunger crisis in east-Africa. The money raised will be donated to Trócaire, the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland, which is delivering emergency food, water and health care to the 25 million people affected.

Severe drought, driven by climate change, is currently affecting Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia and this has resulted in failed harvests and the widespread death of livestock. Conflict has exacerbated the effects in South Sudan and Somalia, with areas in both countries now on the verge of famine.

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, says the situation is critical and has urged support for the collection from parishioners, “With the failure of successive rains and a prolonged drought having taken hold of the region, just surviving has now become the main challenge facing people in large parts of east Africa. Millions of people in the region are facing starvation. The crops have failed and animals are dying because of a lack of grazing and water. The large number of people affected may shock us, but we must

realise that behind these stark numbers are real people: mothers and fathers unable to provide for their hungry children.

“The Catholic Church in Ireland is already responding to this crisis through Trócaire. However, needs are so enormous that we will hold special collections across the country on the weekend of 22 July. All money collected will go directly to Trócaire’s humanitarian relief work in east Africa. Bishops are asking clergy and parishioners to respond to this terrible tragedy with generosity.”

Bishop William Crean, Bishop of Cloyne and chairperson of Trócaire, says the agency is already working on the ground saving lives: “Trócaire is currently running an advertising campaign to raise awareness of this crisis. We have been providing emergency food aid, water and healthcare to affected communities – quite literally life-support for affected people. Trócaire’s health centres in Somalia are treating approximately 19,000 people each month for malnutrition and associated illnesses. With the support of parishioners here at home in the coming weeks, many tens of thousands more people will receive help. For example, over 13,000 children in Kenya will receive supplementary high-energy food, new boreholes

will be provided for communities, many more people will receive monthly food rations and schools will be supplied with water.

“Globally, this crisis has received very little attention. Appeals for aid are under-funded. For example, the UN has received just 37% of the funding it needs to respond to the crisis in Somalia. The world is distracted by the actions of a handful of powerful politicians, while in east Africa millions suffer in silence. It is unacceptable for so many to go hungry.”

The United Nations has described the situation in the drought-ravaged parts of Africa as the greatest humanitarian crisis since the Second World War. Trócaire has a long-standing presence in all four affected countries and is working with local communities to deliver life-saving aid, including food, water and healthcare, to hundreds of thousands of those worst affected.

Donations to Trócaire’s east Africa hunger crisis appeal can be made at trocaire.org or by phoning 1850 408 408 (Republic of Ireland) or 0800 912 1200 (Northern Ireland).

# Christian Aid assists 400,000 Indians left homeless by monsoon rains

Christian Aid  is responding to the mass displacement of 400,000 people in India left homeless by monsoon rains that have killed 12 people.

Christian Aid has allocated more than £75,000 to provide emergency assistance following the heavy rains which started in June and have worsened over the last few days.

Shivani Rana, Emergency Programme Officer at Christian Aid said: "The numbers of people who need help are enormous and now persistent and very heavy rains are forecast for the coming days so numbers will grow.

"Villages have been wiped out by the flood water. People need shelter, clean drinking water and food."

Through the charity's local partner organisation - Indo Global Social Service Society - shelter items such as rope, water filters, soap and mosquito nets have been distributed.

The rains have burst the banks of rivers, flooding villages and agricultural land across 15,000 hectares throughout Assam State.

Toilet facilities are also underwater and the risk of disease spreading throughout the area is extremely high.

Rana added: "Getting access to those who need help is almost impossible because the roads are submerged so we have to rely on our partners' local knowledge and use alternative routes".

Relief camps have been set up by government authorities and around 22,000 people are taking shelter in them.

**+++ Clergy appointment -** Revd Claire Kakuru has been appointed as Minister of The Church on the Hill, Maghaberry, a joint ministry with the

Methodist Church in Ireland.  Claire is currently serving as Vicar in Shankil, Lurgan.

**+++ Pope to beatify Columbian martyrs -**
Pope Francis will beatify a priest and a bishop martyred in Colombia when he visits the country in September, a Vatican spokesman has said. In an email to the Catholic News Service, Vatican spokesman Greg Burke confirmed that Pope Francis will beatify Bishop Jesus Emilio Jaramillo Monsalve of Arauca and Fr Pedro Ramirez Ramos. The beatification Mass will be at Catama field in Villavicencio.

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