

## Anglican Churches urged to think of seafarers this Sunday



This weekend, on ‘Sea Sunday,’ The Mission to Seafarers (MtS) is asking Anglican churches to celebrate the contribution seafarers make to our everyday lives. ‘Sea Sunday’ provides congregations the opportunity to recognise and thank these seafarers for all they do, especially as many work under extremely difficult and dangerous circumstances.

July 8

The Mission to Seafarers is highlighting the challenges seafarers face, spending long periods at sea away from family and loved ones. The charity works in over 200 ports in 50 countries caring for the 1.5 million merchant seafarers of all ranks, nationalities and beliefs.

Secretary General for Mission to Seafarers Andrew Wright says, “Sea Sunday is the one day of the year, set aside by churches, to honour and celebrate the incredible work seafarers do. Without them, our quality of life would be greatly diminished as over 90% of everything we need and use is transported via the sea.

He says the Mission to Seafarers greatly values its close partnership with the Anglican Communion around the world: “This Sea Sunday I ask you to join with so many friends, both in the Anglican family and beyond, to support the Mission to Seafarers through prayer, celebration and donating to our appeal. We simply cannot continue to minister to seafarers without your kind support.”

The charity is inviting younger members of congregations to write personal messages which the Mission to Seafarers will ensure are sent to chaplains to distribute to seafarers. The charity’s Flying Angel Centres are based in 121

July 8



ports around the world offering refreshments, recreational activities, internet, phone facilities, and the chance to spend time away from the ship. While their justice and welfare services offer vital professional help and advice if a seafarer has not been paid or is working in substandard conditions, being bullied or has been a victim of wrongful arrest.

One seafarer and his family who were experiencing a very difficult time in 2016 was Alejandro Gapasin from the Philippines. Alejandro had not been able to secure a new work contract and had been unemployed for a year, facing severe financial issues and struggling to pay for his children's schooling, food and mortgage payments.

July 8

Alejandro and his family were looking at a very uncertain future and the stress of not knowing when he would find a job was taking its toll. Having been a seafarer for some years, Alejandro had encountered MtS chaplains before and had become good friends with one of the charity's chaplains Revd Mark Classen so felt able to share his story with him.

Alejandro says, "My bad condition became the bridge for Revd Classen to connect me to people at MtS in the Philippines. Their personnel and volunteers came to my home with groceries and the things we needed. However, more than their material gifts, they managed to give us spiritual support as they prayed for the family, giving us words of hope and comfort and telling us that they could fully relate to our situation. They explained the activities, mission and vision of MtS and that the organisation aspires to be of service to all seafarers worldwide, regardless of nationality, religion or gender."

He continues, "They left us all in awe as we were amazed with their passion and drive to be of service and support, especially to seafarers in distress like me during that period. My family and I are forever grateful to The Mission to Seafarers – they are all angels disguised as



July 8

humans! We thank them for sharing some feathers from their wings during a time I was having a hard time flying on my own.”

To request free service resources visit [www.missiontoseafarers.org/sea-sunday](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org/sea-sunday) or email: [Joseph.ONeill@missiontoseafarers.org](mailto:Joseph.ONeill@missiontoseafarers.org)

## **C of I bishop's Sermons on Route 66 will support women's literacy**

Bishop Michael Burrows is planning a Rapid Road Tour and Sermon Marathon from September 13 – 29th this year through his diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.



He will be stopping at 66 places in the Diocese, giving a short reflection based on each of the 66 books of the Bible, all on the theme of the empowerment of women through literacy.

This is a Bishops' Appeal fund-raiser and money raised will go to literacy projects run by the Mothers' Union in Ethiopia and *Feed the Minds* in the Congo.




It follows on from previous successful road tours – his 'Stations at the Stations' whistle-stop train

July 8

CASHEL, FERNS & OSSORY



Join BISHOP  
*MICHAEL BURROWS* on his  
**RAPID ROAD TOUR**  
from 13-29 September 2017 for:  
**SHORT REFLECTIONS**  
based on a text from  
all **66 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**  
at **66+ churches and schools**



**SUPPORTING THE  
EMPOWERMENT OF  
WOMEN THROUGH  
LITERACY**

In aid of Mothers' Union and Feed the Minds  
women's literacy projects in Ethiopia and the  
Congo via the Bishops' Appeal Fund



July 8

journey, his playing of 150 church organs and his vintage vehicle drive. Now it is Route 66!

Parishioners and teachers are asked to put their thinking caps on between this and then to come up with special and imaginative ideas to raise money for the literacy projects mentioned above in September ahead of his visit.

Yes, it could be a harvest collection or it could be a project involving children, a fun fund-raising idea involving adults – let your imagination run loose!

He is asking that everyone get behind this to remember those less fortunate, the value of education and how the riches of the Scriptures can motivate us in our generosity and discipleship.

## **C of I Historical Society Conference: Reformation 500**

The Church of Ireland Historical Society, together with its friends in the Catholic Historical Society of Ireland, will be co-hosting a two day conference marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It will take place on Friday 20th October and Saturday 21 October 2017.

July 8

The event is FREE and all members of the public are welcome to attend. As places are limited, however, registration is required. Please click on the following link: [https://reformation\\_500.eventbrite.ie](https://reformation_500.eventbrite.ie). The conference programme is available here.

Proceedings on Friday 20th October will take place in the Music Room at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, beginning at 3pm. Dr Scott Dixon (Queen's University, Belfast) will kick off the conference with a presentation on 'Martin Luther and the Reformation'. After a short coffee break, Professors Peter Marshall (University of Warwick) and Alec Ryrie (Durham University) will lead an open discussion entitled 'Tudor Brexit: How European were the British and Irish Reformations?'.

This will be followed by the launch of a book edited by Dr Mark Empey, Professor Alan Ford and Dr Miriam Moffitt, entitled *The Church of Ireland and its past: history, interpretation and memory*, which was co-funded by the Church of Ireland Historical Society.

On Saturday 21st October, the conference will be at St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin City University commencing at 10am, where Professors Alan Ford (University of Nottingham),

July 8

Graeme Murdock (Trinity College, Dublin) and Jane Dawson (University of Edinburgh) will discuss reform movements in England, Ireland and Europe. This will be followed with presentations by Dr Alison Forrestal (NUI Galway) and Professor Tadhg Ó hAnnracháin (University College Dublin) who will examine the Catholic reformations in Ireland and Europe.

Professor Mícheál Mac Craith (St Isidore's Irish College, Rome) and Professor John McCafferty (University College Dublin) will then look at how the Reformation was written in Europe and Ireland. The conference will end with a roundtable discussion on commemorating the Reformation, which will be chaired by Professor Marian Lyons (Maynooth University).

For informal inquiries, you can contact either Professor Marian Lyons (Marian.Lyons@nuim.ie) or Dr Adrian Empey (secretary.coihs@gmail.com).

Queries may be addressed to Dr Adrian Empey, Honorary Secretary Church of Ireland Historical Society, secretary.coihs@gmail.com  
[www.churchofirelandhist.org](http://www.churchofirelandhist.org)

July 8

## **Archbishop Eamon Martin to celebrate Mass in Knock to mark the Fatima apparitions**

There will be a celebration of Mass at the national Marian Shrine, Knock, Co Mayo, on Sunday 9 July 2017 at 3.00pm, to mark the centenary of the Marian apparitions in Fatima, Portugal. Members of the World Apostolate of Fatima will attend this Mass.

Archbishop Eamon Martin, national patron for Ireland, will be chief celebrant for the Mass which will be concelebrated by Father Richard Gibbons PP, bishops and other clergy. Cardinal Seán Brady will preside at the Mass. Professor Américo Pablo López Ortiz, President of the World Apostolate of Fatima International, will also be in attendance.

This celebration will offer a time for prayer and reflection on this special centenary and also an opportunity to celebrate the canonisation by Pope Francis on the Feast day of Our Lady of Fatima (13 May last), of two of the visionaries of the Marian apparitions at Fatima, Jacinta and Francisco Marto.

July 8

The International Pilgrim Statue from Fatima will be brought to Knock for the occasion. After the Rosary Procession, Archbishop Martin will renew the *Prayer of Consecration of Ireland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary* which was undertaken at Knock by the Irish bishops in August 2014, and will also bless a new crown for the National Pilgrim Statue of Ireland.

## **Abbeyleix South School's special day celebrates charity donation and health flag**

There were double celebrations for Abbeyleix South National School last week.

Pupils and staff raised a HSE Health Promoting School flag, and then presented a cheque for €1586.76 to the Diocese that will help educate Ethiopian children.

The pupils raised the money at their Annual Sale of Work for Charity. Sixth class pupils, their teacher Mrs Mythen and Principal Mrs Wallace presented the cheque to Bill Kingston on behalf of The Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory

July 8



and Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal, on a special day last Tuesday June 21.

The school has been working towards the health flag since 2015, supported by the HSE Health Promotion Department. All the pupils were involved led by a committee of six pupils, two parents and two staff members,

They aimed to improve the overall health and well-being of the school community, thereby raising self-confidence of pupils, and spreading the health message.

Activities included Mindfulness Mondays, yoga, a family walk/run, Food Dudes, Active Week, designing Health Heroes, growing vegetables



July 8



and cooking, sports lessons and a mental health workshop.

They even created a new 2school motto: “Being Healthy Can Be Done, Being Healthy Can Be Fun. Stay Healthy, Stay Happy”.

Principal Mrs Wallace says it has been a very productive two years.

“Abbeyleix South National School received recognition as a Health Promoting School, last May and received a Certificate of Active Participation. We have now achieved a Health Promoting School Flag, for our school.

July 8

Well done to everyone, especially our health promoting school committee, on all the work which has been undertaken, in order to make our school an even happier and healthier place to work and learn,” she said. Leinster Express report.

## **Former Minister of State to be made deacon**



Former Minister of State Trevor Sargent will be ordained a Church of Ireland deacon in Shillelagh Church on Saturday afternoon, 26th August. He will then serve as Deacon with Tullow

July 8

Group of Parishes in the diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory from September.

## **Lord Eames speaks at Lords' Holy Communion service**

Sir Peter Bottomley writing in the *Worthing Herald*, states, "There is a monthly Communion for MPs and members of the House of Lords. This week the breakfast speaker was Lord Eames, for over twenty years formerly the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh in Northern Ireland during the Troubles, including the time I served as minister for agriculture and for environment in the Province.

"He spoke about the power of the memory for the future. He said we remember people above all; in his experience prayer can move mountains, including helping the transition of those involved in atrocities to positive community building in later years.

"One of his most dramatic stories was about the antipathy to so-called mixed marriages, the household that combined Christians who happened to come from the Roman Catholic and the Protestant traditions."

July 8

## First female C of E bishop receives honorary degree



The first Church of England female bishop has been awarded an honorary degree from the University of Bath.

Bishop of Stockport Rt Rev Libby Lane received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws alongside fellow graduands from the faculty of science at the historic Bath Abbey, in the heart of the city.

Dr Gordon Taylor, from the University's department for health, delivered an oration for Bishop Libby, a "fervent supporter of Manchester United Football Club".

He explained: "By the time that she was studying theology at St Peter's College, Oxford,

July 8

she was convinced she had a call to the priesthood, something which was still not legally possible at the time.

"Through her integrity, wisdom and faith, the Right Reverend Libby Lane provides an inspiring role, not only to our students graduating today but indeed to all of us."

Bishop Libby was ordained deacon in 1993 and as a priest in 1994. She served her curacy at St James's Church, Blackburn.

International women's day was marked with her being installed at Chester Cathedral on 8th March 2015, following her consecration at the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Saint Peter in York.

## **Salvation Army's robot sex warning**

The Salvation Army has warned the dawn of robots used for sexual intercourse could lead to an increase in sexual exploitation victims.

The Christian church and charity claims so-called 'sexbots' will encourage sex to be considered a commodity to be bought and sold.

July 8



Kathryn Taylor, of The Salvation Army's Anti Trafficking and Modern Slavery Unit, said: "'Sexbots' won't fulfil the need for human interaction and for rewarding, loving relationships.

"In the same way that pornography normalises certain behaviours, the availability of 'sexbots' could normalise a distorted power dynamic which devalues the other person involved when transferred to human interactions.

"This could encourage increased objectification of women and children and a lack of respect for their fellow human beings."

The Salvation Army spoke out after the Foundation for Responsible Robotics launched its 'Our Sexual Future with Robots' consultation document earlier this week.

July 8

The document poses questions including what kind of relationships are possible with robots, whether sexual relationships with robots are acceptable and whether robots could help cut sex crimes.

The Salvation Army fears sex robots could fuel the flames of the prostitution industry and incite traffickers to target more vulnerable women and children in order to meet this rising demand.

The organisation also shot down any suggestion the availability of such technology would reduce the demand for prostitution.

Kathryn Taylor added: "It has been argued that the availability of this technology could reduce demand for women, and even children, in prostitution.

"However, we believe that the more sex is viewed as a commodity - something this technology could certainly encourage - the more likely it is that people will look to purchase other people for sex."

**CNI**

July 8