



Irish bishops annual inter-church meeting

The annual meeting of representatives of the Irish Bishops' Conference and the Bishops of the Church of Ireland was held in Dublin on Wednesday 26 September.

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“In an atmosphere of prayer and warm fellowship” the Bishops:

- shared impressions of the World Meeting of Families and the visit of Pope Francis;
- reflected on the broad significance of the forthcoming commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland;
- following a brief presentation of the recent ARCIC document, *Walking Together on the Way*, agreed to study this text further together in the 2019 meeting.

There was also an informal wide-ranging discussion on topics of mutual interest such as homelessness and migrancy, education questions and the aftermath of recent referendums.

The 2019 meeting is planned for 25 September in Dublin.

Participating Bishops:

Church of Ireland:

The Most Revd. Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh. The Most Revd. Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin. The Most Revd. Pat Storey, Bishop of Meath and Kildare. The Right Revd. Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore. The Right Revd. Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.

Roman Catholic Church:

Most Revd. Anthony Farquhar, Emeritus Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor. Most Revd. John Fleming, Bishop of Killala. Most Revd. Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and

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Leighlin. Most Revd. Kevin Doran, Bishop of Elphin. Most Revd. Alan McGuckian, Bishop of Raphoe. Most Revd. Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick.

Rubicon 2018 Explores #MeToo and #ChurchToo Movements

The seventh Rubicon gathering takes place on October 20 2018 in the Sugar Club, Dublin, from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. A stellar array of speakers has been lined up to address this year's themes which include conversations on the #MeToo and #ChurchToo movements and how they shape what it means for communities of faith to speak truth and seek justice.

The global #MeToo social media campaign was started to raise awareness of sexual harassment and violence against women. This spread to faith communities with people being encouraged to share stories of sexual abuse in church settings using the #ChurchToo hashtag.

This year's speakers include Scot McKnight, an American New Testament scholar, historian of early Christianity, theologian and author. He is currently Professor of New Testament at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Illinois and is an ordained Anglican.

Jarrold McKenna is the cofounder of First Home Project, a community welcoming, housing and 'giving a hand up not a hand out' to recently arrived refugees. He is the Teaching Pastor at Cornerstone Church in Perth and is a peace

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award winning nonviolent social change trainer working in the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Noeline Blackwell is a human rights lawyer and Chief Executive of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre. She has previously worked as the director of FLAC, the Free Legal



The poster for the RUBICON event features a red silhouette of the Dublin skyline at the top. Below it, the word "RUBICON" is written in large, bold, red capital letters. The background of the poster is a faded image of a city street with a bridge. The text on the poster includes:

Join us for crucial conversations including how the #MeToo and #ChurchToo movements are shaping what it means for us to speak truth and seek justice as communities of faith.

*Tickets available at:
www.wearerubicon.com*

The right side of the poster is a red vertical band containing portraits and names of the speakers:

- NOELINE BLACKWELL**
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre
- RUTH GARVEY-WILLIAMS**
Vox Magazine
- ALLY MCGEEVER**
YWCA
- JARROD MCKENNA**
Activist • Theologian
- SCOT MCKNIGHT**
Author • Theologian
- FeliSPEAKS**
Performance Artist • Writer

Advice Centres and a solicitor in private practice. She is a member of the Commission on Future Policing and sits on the boards of the Immigrant Council of Ireland and Front Line Defenders.

FeliSpeaks (aka Felicia Olusanya) is a young Nigerian–Irish spoken word performance artist and writer who is fast becoming one of the most exciting and in demand poets in Ireland. Her mind is set on changing the face of the art form in Ireland.

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Other speakers are being added to the bill including Ally McGeever of YWCA and Ruth Garvey–Williams of Vox Magazine.

Rubicon is organised by Holy Trinity Rathmines and one of the coordinators, Greg Fromholz, explained that Rubicon is intent on starting conversations on the interplay between faith and culture. Their aim is to create a safe space in which to discuss the big theological and cultural questions.

Each year the themes are chosen based on the current zeitgeist and looking at where culture and church are colliding and the conversations are built around that. Over the past year many of the big questions in society have been raised by the #MeToo and #ChurchToo movements.

Greg said that among the conversations on the day will be to look at how trust can be restored between people and the church. He explained that he had hoped that the visit of Pope Francis could be a platform for repentance and healing but felt that what the Pope had said had not gone far enough.

“At Rubicon we just want to call that out and be unafraid to say we were disappointed and wanted more. We as part of the church are sorry and we want to be part of the re-establishing of a trusting relationship,” he commented.

“Rubicon is a challenging day. You’re not just a passive spectator, you’re saying I’m going to confront my prejudices and fears and it will lead us into a better place. Rubicon asks something of you,” he added.

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Tickets, costing €30, are available from the Rubicon website at www.wearerubicon.com

Cathedral Service in Irish to recall President Hyde's Inauguration

All are invited to a Service of Holy Communion to remember the 80th anniversary of the inauguration of the first President of Ireland, Dr Douglas Hyde. The Service takes place in Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford, at 6.30pm on Sunday, 7th October 2018. The celebrant will be the Revd Trevor Sargent.

The Service will be printed and conducted in Irish, with a parallel printed English translation. Douglas Hyde, whose father was a Church of Ireland Rector, was both a poet and an academic renowned for his love of Irish. He was a founder of the Gaelic League in 1893. In 1904, a Church of Ireland editorial supported the aims of the Gaelic League, saying: 'If we insist upon our right to be recognised as Irish people we must be prepared to accept along with the honour conferred by the title the duties which it involves. One of these duties is the preservation of the historic Irish language'.

2018 marks the 80th anniversary of the Office of the President of Ireland being established. In 1938, Dr Douglas Hyde was inaugurated and he set a precedent which has been followed ever since by choosing to take his oath of office in the Irish language. On Sunday, 7th October 2018, at 6.30pm, the *first monthly Irish language Service* in the

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Cathedral will give thanks for the love of learning, love of people and love of language which Dr Hyde epitomised.
Eolas/Info: The Revd Trevor Sargent
(curate@waterford.anglican.org) 087 2547 836

MU Worldwide President prays for MV Nyerere ferry disaster victims during Tanzania visit



Volunteers arrange the coffins containing the dead bodies of passengers retrieved after the ferry MV Nyerere overturned off the shores of Ukara Island in Lake Victoria, Tanzania on Saturday (22 September).

The Worldwide President of the Mothers' Union, Lynne Tembey, has prayed for victims of the MV Nyerere ferry disaster during a visit to Tanzania. The MV Nyerere

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overturned some 50 metres from the shore as it prepared to dock after travelling Ukara and Bugolora Islets last Thursday (20 September).

The official death toll rose to 227 on Tuesday after another body was recovered from the water.

Tanzania's Mothers' Union has been holding its provincial conference and the organisation's Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, was amongst those present.

"I was terribly moved by [the disaster] and felt privileged and deeply humbled to be with fellow members as we prayed together for those who were affected," she said, "those who lost their lives, those who lost loved ones, those who were injured, those who might find it difficult to come to terms with what has happened and those who will minister to all."

Organisers set aside time for prayer during the conference to pray for those affected. And on Sunday, members of the government joined MU members in Mbeya Cathedral where churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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prayers were said. “They spoke passionately about what had happened and they thanked members and others present for their commitment to prayer,” Tembey said.

“Lake Victoria has a great many boats and ferries on it. This disaster, understandably, has affected people badly. I continue, as I know many will continue, to pray for the people who will support and all those affected.

“May those who lost their lives ‘Rest in peace eternal, and rise in glory everlasting’.

An extra collection was taken during the cathedral service to raise funds for the victims and their families. In total, some 557 million Tanzanian Shillings (approximately £185,000 GBP) has been raised by various voluntary donations – including from the Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference – to support the victims. This is on top of the one million Shillings (£3,000 GBP) that the government has announced it will give to each of the 41 survivors and the families of those killed.

“As I know generosity is at the heart of a Mothers’ Union member, and certainly this was yet another example of compassion and love for others. I was deeply moved seeing the children queuing to add their offering to the collection for the victims, such compassion in children so young.

“Please keep them all in your prayers.”

Many of the dead were buried in a mass funeral on Sunday, attended by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa. “Our country

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has been hit by a big tragedy,” he said. “We lost brothers, relatives and friends. Our call is for us to be united during this hard time and understand that our countrymen have been left by beloved parents, brothers, sisters, children and friends in this big tragedy. So we need to console them instead of feeding them with bad words. Let’s leave the government and relevant authorities to do their work.”

During her visit to Tanzania, Lynne Tembey opened a new Mothers’ Union Centre in Tukuya, in Tanzania’s Southern Islands. “The centre is very much needed,” an MU Spokesperson said. “It will transform the community and the lives of the people living in it.”

Archbishop O’Reilly asks for prayers for the safe return of missing missionary priest

The Archbishop of Cashel & Emly, Archbishop Kieran O’Reilly SMA, has asked for prayers for the safe return of a missing missionary priest from his congregation, the Society of African Missions, who is believed to have been abducted by jihadists.

Father Pierluigi Maccalli SMA was kidnapped on Monday in south Niger, near the border with Burkina Faso, allegedly by a group of jihadist militants.

The Society of African Missions is an international community of Catholic missionaries which serves the people of Africa.

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Archbishop O'Reilly said: "I am asking the faithful of our Archdiocese, and all people of goodwill, to join with me in praying for Father Pierluigi's wellbeing and safety. It is a very worrying time as we wait in hopeful anticipation of our brother priest's safe return."

Father Pierluigi is originally from the Diocese of the northern Italian town of Crema and had worked for years as a missionary in Ivory Coast before transferring to the parish of Bomoanga, in Niamey Diocese. The region has been struggling to defeat jihadist groups, including some affiliated with al Qaeda and Islamic State, which are active along Niger's porous borders with both Mali and Burkina Faso.

C of I ordinands commissioned as Student Readers

New ordinands studying in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute were commissioned as Student Readers by the Archbishop of Dublin yesterday evening (Wednesday September 26).

The ordinands who were licenced as Readers were: Edwin Aiken (Down & Dromore), Rodney Blair (Armagh), Andrea Cotter (Connor), Sarah Crawford (Connor), Alistair Doyle (Dublin & Glendalough), Nathan Ervine (Connor), Claire Henderson (Derry & Raphoe), Leonard Madden (Dublin & Glendalough), Matthew Topley (Armagh) and Anna Williams (Down & Dromore).

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They were presented for licencing by the Revd Dr Patrick McGlinchey who coordinates student placements for CITI.



In his sermon, Archbishop Michael Jackson spoke of the importance of maintaining the “outward focus” of ordained ministry – “It is not about you; it is about them”.

“Increasingly, and increasingly instinctively, what you will look for in The Scriptures is not yourselves but other people. This is part of the conviction I have often shared with others, and it is this: It is not about you; it is about them. The Scriptures form the lifeblood of our faith, of the faith of others and of our vocation by God. Vocation does not make you special. Vocation makes you specifically responsible. By the time you are being ordained, all of these specific responsibilities will be outlined in prose that is both ancient and modern at the same time,” he said.

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He encouraged the students not to get too caught up in the exhilaration of their own idealism or to get too cosy in the Theological Institute which aims to enable them to learn and grow without stresses and anxieties. He also urged them not to get too tied up in the Curacy Round.

“If you get too caught up in yourself, all that will happen, sooner rather than later, is that you will play off the worst of yourself against the best of yourself. And that is helpful to nobody. Why? Because, once again: It is not about you; it is about them. The tiring thing about ordination and the ordained ministry is keeping the outward focus – and that is why the care of others always has to be set alongside, and not beneath, the care of self. It is not a question about being of no use to other people; it is a question of being of no use to yourself and to God,” the Archbishop explained.

Down & Dromore parishes respond to statistic analysis

At their statistics evening on Monday 24 September, the Diocese of Down & Dromore asked the parishes represented to tell us what other information would be useful for their mission and outreach.

Comments came back in three quantitative categories around parish boundaries, parish organisations and dashboard information/annual returns.

Other comments and questions clustered around discovering the factors that help a church to grow and

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would require qualitative research, some of which could be done at parish level.

Parish Boundaries

In the Church of Ireland, a parish is a geographical area in which a church is placed and where it ministers. The parish boundaries do not match the civil boundaries, but our census data has been reconciled as closely as possible with the parish



maps to give a true reflection of parish demographics. The personal details collected by NISRA are completely confidential, but it may be possible with their help to drill down into particular wards in order to get a more detailed picture. Almost all of the parish boundary maps are up to date and work continues to resolve any outstanding issues.

Parish Organisations

We appreciate that many of our parishes are very busy throughout the week with thousands of people passing through our premises or meeting in homes. As a diocese we would like to devise a way of measuring this engagement, perhaps by collecting data in different categories via the parish returns on a rolling basis – children and youth one year, discipleship the next etc. Such an undertaking would need to be weighed against the

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administrative burden on the parishes and on the diocesan office.

Dashboard Information and Annual Returns

There were requests for each individual church to have its own dashboard and this is possible where returns data is available. Other helpful suggestions included sharing data amongst parishes of a similar size and demographic; looking at area deaneries as statistical units; introducing a better measure of adult baptism numbers (which would also serve as an indicator of new professions of faith) and discovering a way to ascertain regularity of worship. As said during the presentation, however, it may be easier and more useful to try and measure the size of the total worshipping community.

News Briefs



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+++Wedding Day in St Bride's - The church was looking particularly beautiful today in the autumn sunshine for the wedding of Lynsey McLeod and Thomas Johnston. A slightly unusual form of conveyance to the church for Thomas in the shape of a New Holland tractor! Lynsey's was also something not seen too often at St Bride's, Doagh (Connor diocese) as she came in her uncle's 1935 vintage Rolls Royce. Canon David Humphries officiated at the ceremony and was the first to congratulate them as Mr & Mrs Johnston.

+++Harvest service on RTE 1 television - On Sunday, 14th October, at 11.10am on RTÉ1 television, a Harvest Service will be broadcast. The service will be led by Canon Peter Campion and the choir from The King's Hospital School, Palmerstown.

+++Methodist President's week - Sunday 30th: Dundrum Dublin 40th Anniversary Celebrations Monday 1st: Meetings Belfast Tuesday 2nd: Stationing Committee & Pastoral Efficiency Belfast Wednesday 3rd: General Committee Belfast

+++Marking the Armistice in Kenmare - November 11th 2018 will mark the Centenary of the Armistice that ended World War One. Since then, there have been many conflicts worldwide – with onetime enemies becoming friends, and sadly, vice versa.

To mark the anniversary, the town of Kenmare will be holding a special event at 3pm on November 11th – remembering all those involved in conflict over the last 100 years, but more importantly, looking forward to a country

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where children of all birth nations may live together in peace.

There will be poems, singing and readings in many different languages, culminating in a demonstration of togetherness and unity irrespective of nationality, religious or political belief. If anyone would like to take part in the event, or have the names of friends or family members included in the memorial, contact Michael Cavanagh in Kenmare on 0858 533173 or michael.cavanagh@eircom.net as soon as possible, please, for planning purposes.



+++Moderator visits University of Ulster

PCI Moderator with Cheryl Meban (Chaplain), Professor Raffaella Folli (UU) and Maureen Bennett (Chaplains ' Committee). The Moderator also met with David Bruce and churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Professor Alastair Adair (UU) over lunch to learn about Ulster University's integrated approach to the local community. The Moderator said it was "Inspirational and pioneering!"

+++Climate change seminar - Are you interested in how your parish can help the environment?

The Church of Ireland's Church and Society Commission is holding a climate change and environment seminar on Wednesday, 14th November, at Church of Ireland House, Donegall Street, Belfast.

The event will start at 10am and conclude with a light lunch at 1pm.

Speakers:

- Stephen Trew (environmental campaigner) – A Biblical Perspective on the Environment
- David Thomas (Christian Aid Belfast) – Impact of Climate Change on the Developing World
- David Ritchie (Chief Officer, Representative Church Body) – Practical Action in Parish Life

Attendance is free and bookings can be made by emailing seminar@ireland.anglican.org

+++Dublin & Glendalough Synod reports online - The Diocesan Synods of Dublin & Glendalough take place on Tuesday December 9 2018 in Temple Carrig School, Greystones. Synods will commence with a celebration of Holy Communion at 4pm in the school at which the Archbishop will deliver his presidential address. The business of Synods will begin immediately after the service. The Book of Reports for Synods 2018 is available in full on the Dublin website under the 'About Us' section. Hard copies will be available on the night of Synods. Anyone

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wishing to have a copy posted prior to Synods should request same from the Diocesan Office on 01-4966981 or by email at admin@dublin.anglican.org

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